

DOLLAR COMICS
68 PAGES
NO ADS



FLASH • WONDER WOMAN • DEADMAN

Dollar Comics



6 ALL-NEW SUPER-STAR FEATURES

ADVENTURE COMICS



THE FLASH TRAPPED!



**DEADMAN AFLAME!
GREEN LANTERN ENCHANTED!**



**AQUAMAN HUNTED!
AND THE END OF THE WAR OF THE NEW GODS--
ALL IN THIS ISSUE!**



ANDRU
GIORDANO

WONDER WOMAN IN HELL-- FIGHTING TO SAVE STEVE TREVOR!



ADVENTURE COMICS

DOLLAR COMICS

478-C

DATELINE: ADVENTURE COMICS

This issue we continue our grand new **ADVENTURE** tradition, showing how the oldest-running comic can still be the most original.

Old favorites Flash and Wonder Woman are back, and Green Lantern makes another brief appearance in a special seven pager—special because it's his last appearance in these pages for the time being. Since Aquaman's own magazine was recently cancelled, we're adding him to the **ADVENTURE** line-up, and that necessitates dropping GL.

The New Gods conclude their epic god war in these pages this issue as well, making room for a new series of stories debuting in #461.

Read on, adventurous one, read on . . .

featuring:

The FLASH

DEADMAN

Trapped in "The Canvas Inferno" as the strangest mystery of his after life starts to unravel . . . on page 15

THE NEW GODS

Will they live to learn what lurks behind "The Final Barrier" . . . on page 25

AQUAMAN

Murder on the high seas—and "The Hunt" . . . on page 35

GREEN LANTERN

Sing a song of space . . . but not "The Deadly Song Of The Wizard" . . . on page 48

WONDER WOMAN

Steve Trevor is dead. But is even death forever, "The Quest For The Stolen Soul" . . . on page 55

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A BOLT OF LIGHTNING SHATTERED A CABINET OF CHEMICALS--CHANGING POLICE SCIENTIST BARRY ALLEN INTO THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE---

The FLASH

IF I WERE YOU, JAY, I WOULDN'T BE TALKING-- YOU'D BETTER SAVE THE ENERGY YOU HAVE LEFT FOR PANTING!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, BARRY? DON'T YOU LIKE THE IDEA OF BEING OUTSPRINTED BY A GRAY-HAIRED SPEEDSTER?

BARRY (THE FLASH) ALLEN
AND JAY (THE FLASH) GARRICK
...THE FASTEST MEN ALIVE ON
THEIR RESPECTIVE PARALLEL
EARTHS! BOTH OF THEM HAVE
FACED EVERY KIND OF MENACE
IMAGINABLE--YET ONE OF
THEM IS ABOUT TO EMBARK
ON AN ORDEAL TOTALLY
UNIMAGINABLE!
WELCOME TO...

A NIGHTMARE to REMEMBER!

AN OFF-BEAT SUPER-SPEED ADVENTURE BY:

WRITER: CARY BATES
LETTERING: BEN ODA

PENCILLER: IRV NOVICK
COLORIST: GENE D'ANGELO

INKER: FRANK McLAUGHLIN
EDITOR: PAUL LEVITZ

I LOOK FORWARD TO THESE
SUPER-SPEED SPRINTS OF
OURS, OLD FRIEND! YOU SHOULD
VISIT US HERE ON EARTH-TWO
MORE OFTEN!

I WOULD--
IF THE
CROOKS IN
CENTRAL
CITY WOULD
ONLY TAKE
MORE TIME
OFF!

HUH? WHY ARE WE
STOPPING HERE? DON'T
TELL ME I REALLY DID
WEAR YOU OUT?

WEAR
ME OUT??

FOR YOUR
INFORMATION,
SON--

I'VE GOT AT LEAST
ANOTHER 100,000
MILES LEFT IN ME--

--BEFORE I
EVEN THINK
ABOUT
BREATHING
HARD!

AS FOR WHY
WE STOPPED
HERE--

--THIS IS THE
BEST FOCAL POINT
FOR THE VIBRATORY
JOURNEY YOU HAVE
TO MAKE BACK TO
YOUR WORLD!

I USE IT
MYSELF
WHenever
I VISIT YOU
ON EARTH-ONE!

YES... I'VE GOT A
SIMILAR FOCAL POINT IN
MY OWN NEIGHBORHOOD! *

WELL, OLD PAL, I GUESS THIS
IS GOODBYE--UNTIL NEXT
TIME! GIVE MY BEST TO JOAN!

TILL
NEXT TIME,
BARRY!

AND DON'T
FORGET TO
KISS IRIS
FOR ME!

WILL DO--
RIGHT
AFTER I
FINISH
KISSING
HER FOR
ME!

*THE CENTRAL CITY COMMUNITY
CENTER, REMEMBER? -- PAUL.

AS THE SCARLET SPEEDSTER ATTEMPTS TO CROSS THE ETHEREAL DIMENSIONAL GULF THAT SEPARATES THE TWO PARALLEL EARTHS...

ODD... I'VE MADE THIS TRIP DOZENS OF TIMES BEFORE--

--BUT THIS TIME... SOMETHING DOESN'T SEEM... RIGHT...

...SOMETHING... SHOCKING ME SENSELESS...

...EVERYTHING... GETTING BLACK...

ZAP!

UHHH...

UHHH... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIT ME-- BUT WHATEVER IT WAS, IT BOUNCED ME DIRECTLY BACK TO EARTH-TWO--

--RIGHT WHERE JAY JUST LEFT ME!

WHOA! THE HEAD IS STILL GROGGY...

...THE LEGS ARE STILL WOBBLY!

I'D BETTER HOLD OFF AWHILE BEFORE I ATTEMPT THE VIBRATORY TRIP AGAIN!

IN THE MEANTIME...

...IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO FIND JAY AND TRY TO DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED IN THE DIMENSIONAL GULF!

MAYBE WE CAN PUT OUR SCIENTIFIC MINDS TOGETHER AND COME UP WITH AN EXPLANATION!

KEYSTONE CITY LIMITS

AND A SPLIT-SECOND
LATER A CRIMSON
COMET RACES
THROUGH THE
DOWNTOWN STREETS
FASTER THAN
ANY ROVING EYE
CAN FOLLOW...

GOOD GRIEF! HOOKING UP
WITH JAY IS GOING TO
HAVE TO WAIT!

THERE'S BIG TROUBLE
RIGHT HERE IN
KEYSTONE CITY!



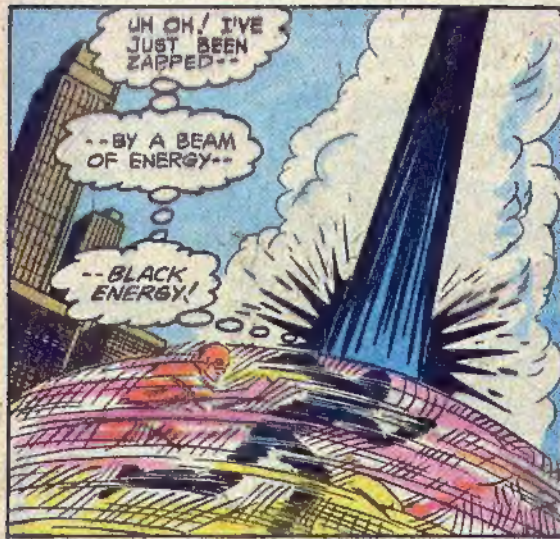
I HOPE YOU ENJOYED
YOUR DRINK, SHADE--
BECAUSE YOUR NEXT
GLASS OF WATER WILL
BE FROM THE FAUCET
IN YOUR CELL!

WELL, WELL!
IF IT ISN'T
MY OLD
FRIEND--



FASCINATING--
BUT POINTLESS!

I ASSUME YOU
WANT TO FIGHT
FOR OLD TIMES'
SAKE-- SO I'LL
BE GLAD TO
OBLIGE!



UH OH! I'VE JUST BEEN ZAPPED--

--BY A BEAM OF ENERGY--

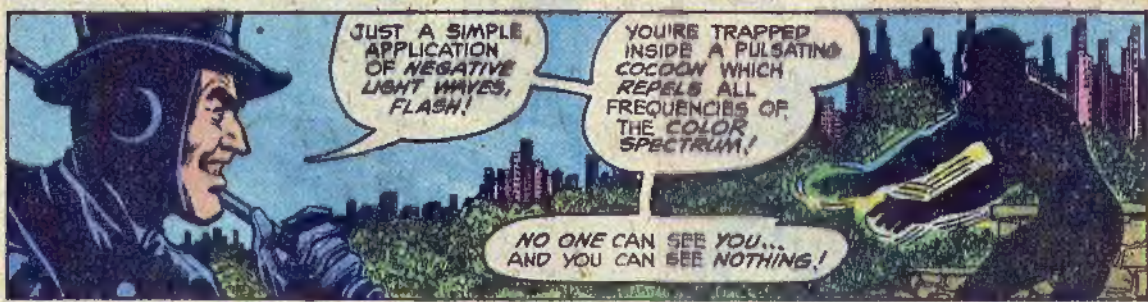
--BLACK ENERGY!



THEY DIDN'T CALL ME THE DUKE OF DARKNESS FOR NOTHING, OLD FRIEND!

HE'S TURNED ME INTO A... WALKING SHADOWETTE!

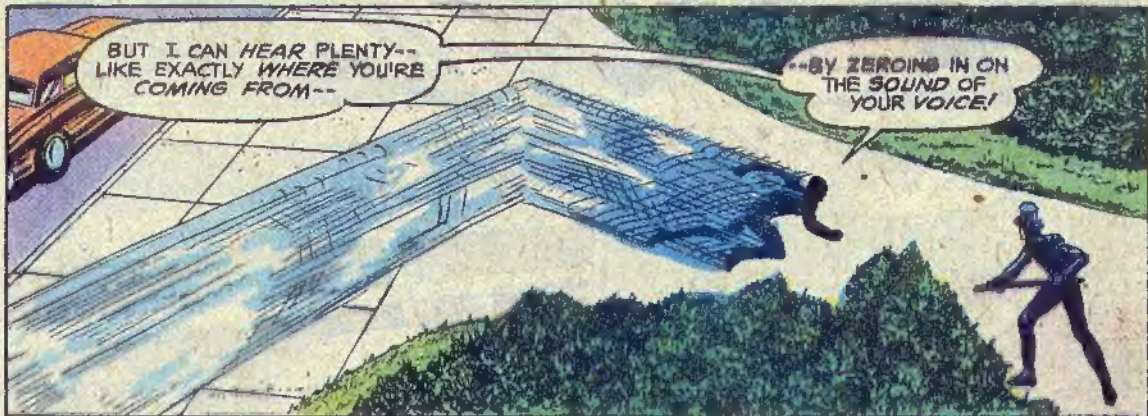
AND WHAT'S WORSE-- I CAN'T SEE!



JUST A SIMPLE APPLICATION OF NEGATIVE LIGHT WAVES, FLASH!

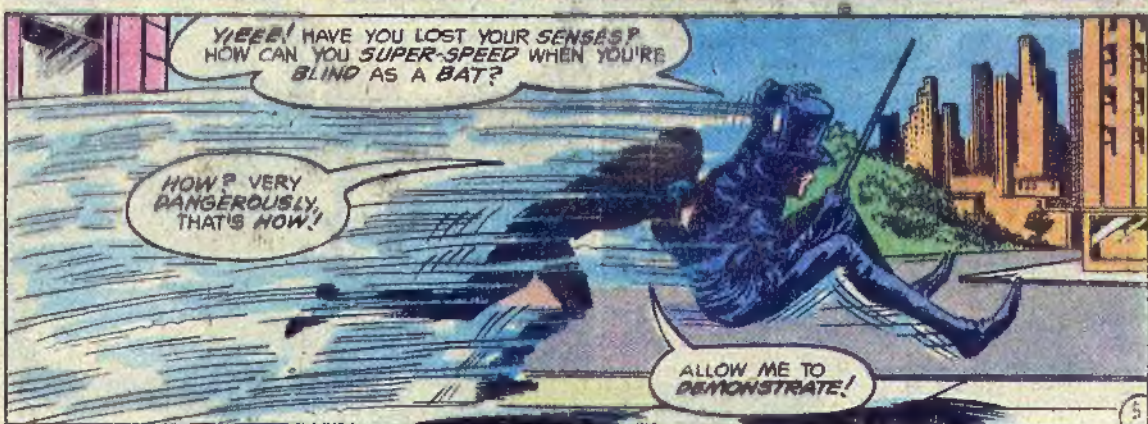
YOU'RE TRAPPED INSIDE A PULSATING COCOON WHICH REPELS ALL FREQUENCIES OF THE COLOR SPECTRUM!

NO ONE CAN SEE YOU... AND YOU CAN SEE NOTHING!



BUT I CAN HEAR PLENTY-- LIKE EXACTLY WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM--

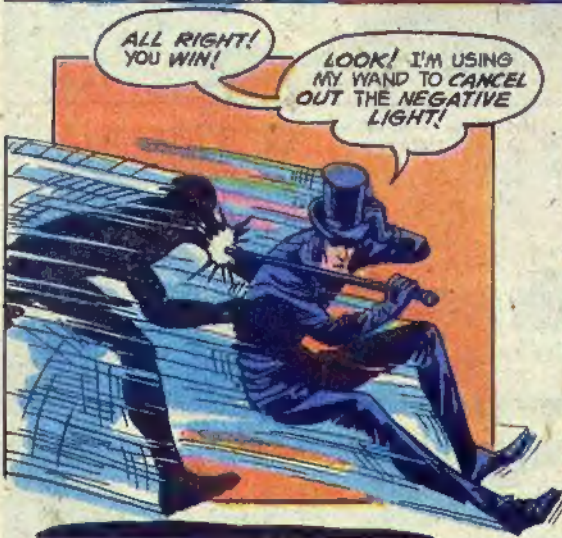
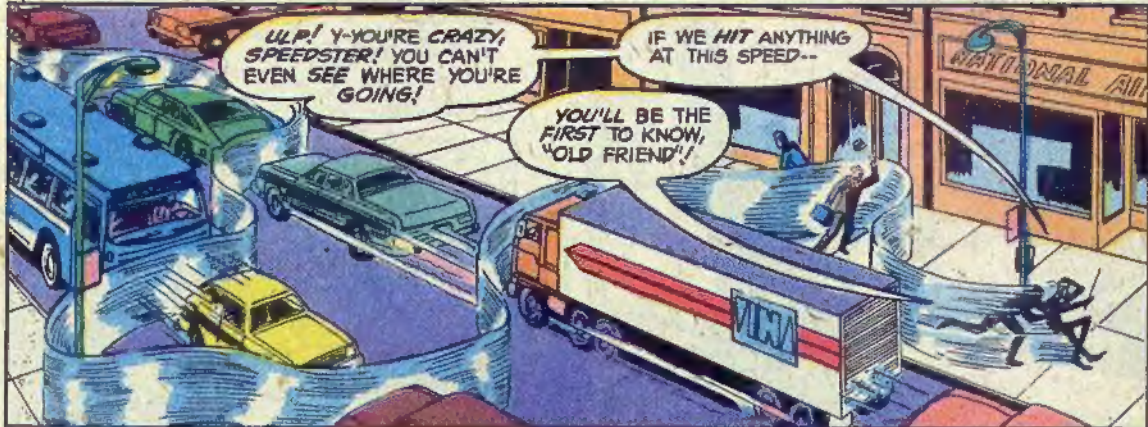
--BY ZEROING IN ON THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE!

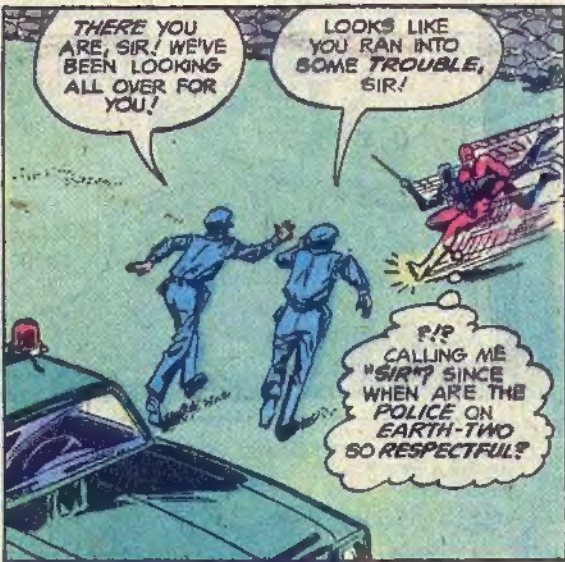
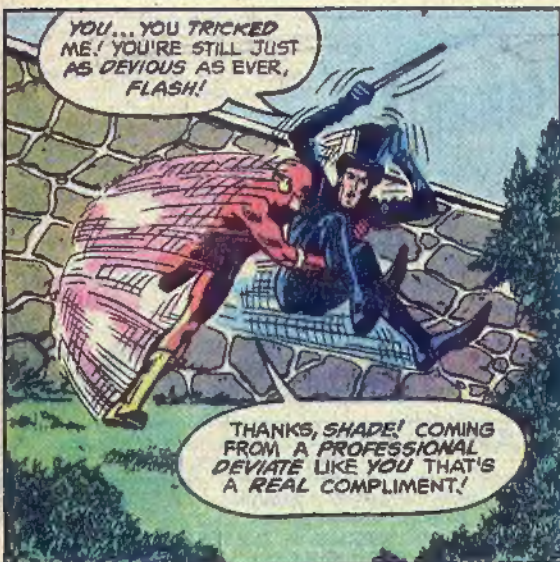


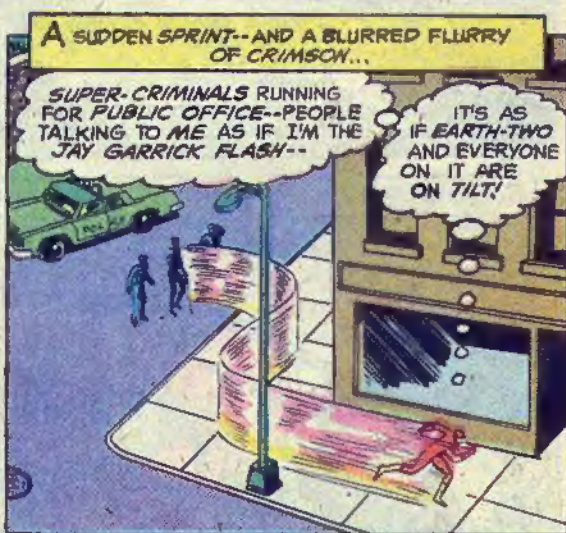
YEEH! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSES? HOW CAN YOU SUPER-SPEED WHEN YOU'RE BLIND AS A BAT?

HOW? VERY DANGEROUSLY, THAT'S HOW!

ALLOW ME TO DEMONSTRATE!



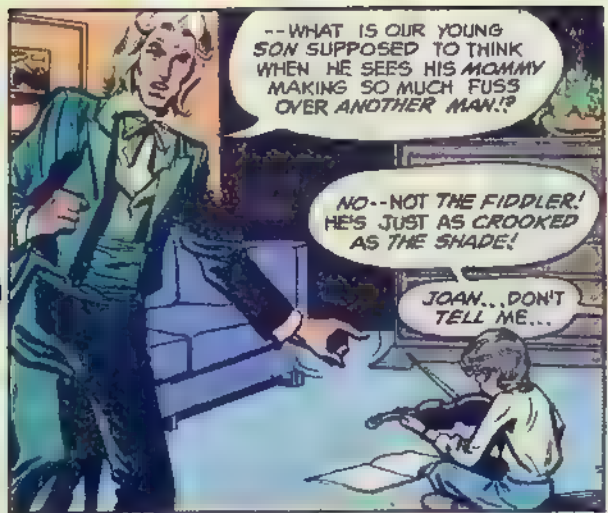






WHAT A TENDER SCENE! I MUST SAY, DARLING, IT'S VERY TOUCHING TO SEE YOU'RE STILL SO FOND OF YOUR EX-HUSBAND --

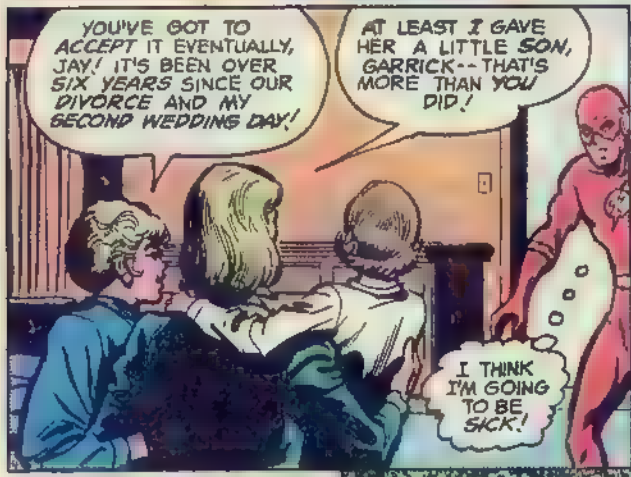
UH-OH!



--WHAT IS OUR YOUNG SON SUPPOSED TO THINK WHEN HE SEES HIS MOMMY MAKING SO MUCH FUSS OVER ANOTHER MAN?!

NO--NOT THE FIDDLER! HE'S JUST AS CROOKED AS THE SHADE!

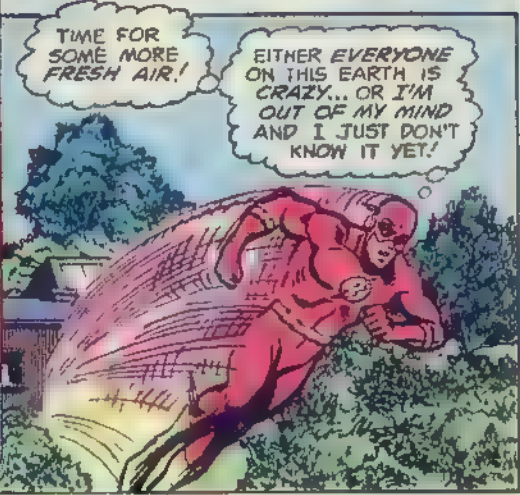
JOAN...DON'T TELL ME...



YOU'VE GOT TO ACCEPT IT EVENTUALLY, JAY! IT'S BEEN OVER SIX YEARS SINCE OUR DIVORCE AND MY SECOND WEDDING DAY!

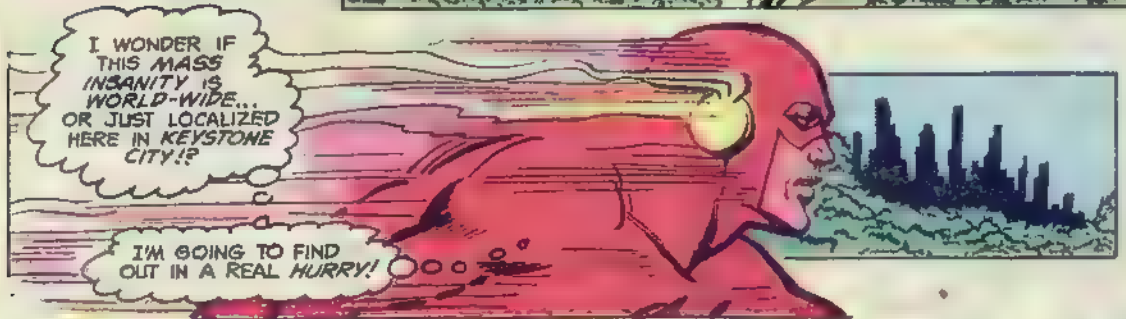
AT LEAST I GAVE HER A LITTLE SON, GARRICK--THAT'S MORE THAN YOU DID!

I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK!



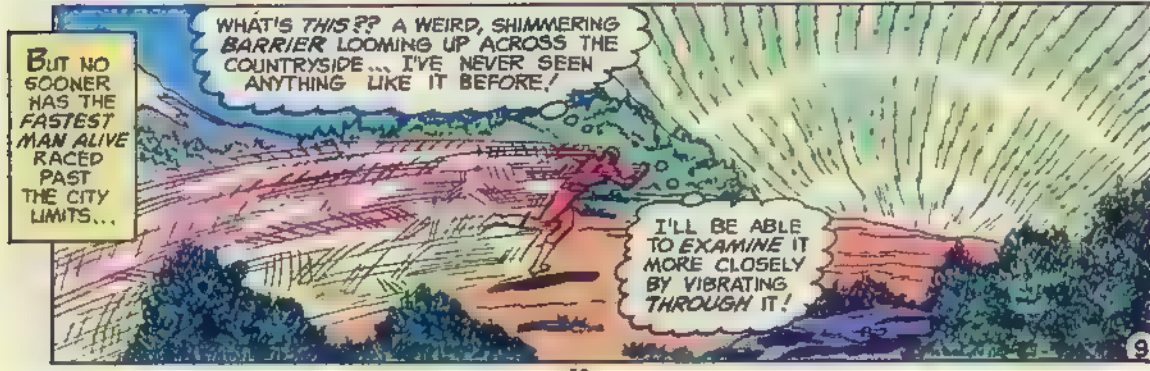
TIME FOR SOME MORE FRESH AIR!

EITHER EVERYONE ON THIS EARTH IS CRAZY... OR I'M OUT OF MY MIND AND I JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET!



I WONDER IF THIS MASS INSANITY IS WORLD-WIDE... OR JUST LOCALIZED HERE IN KEYSTONE CITY!?

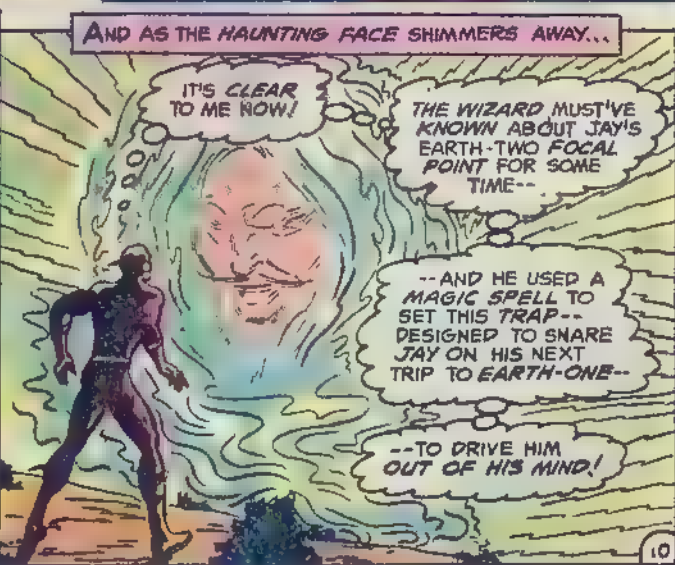
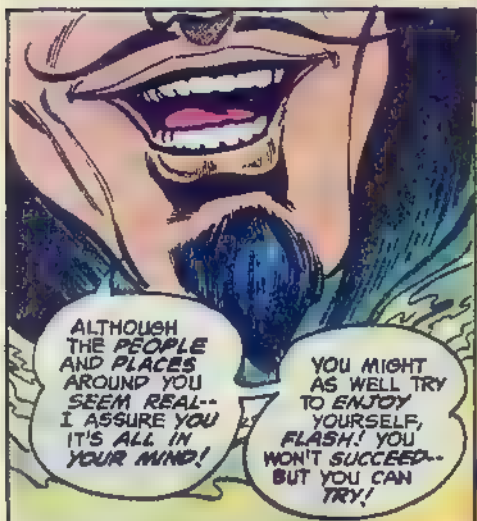
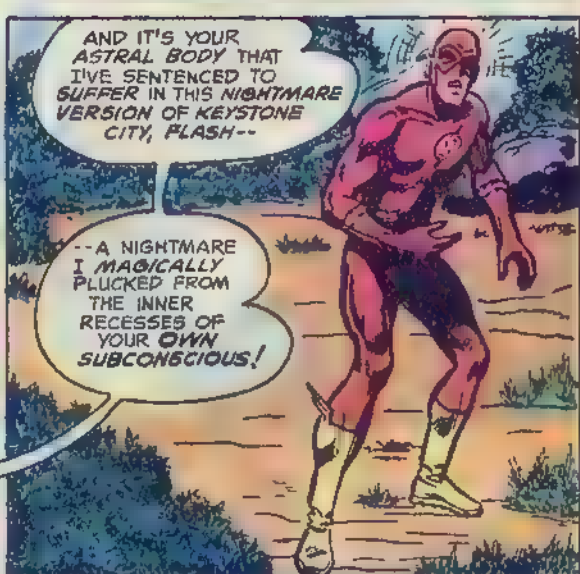
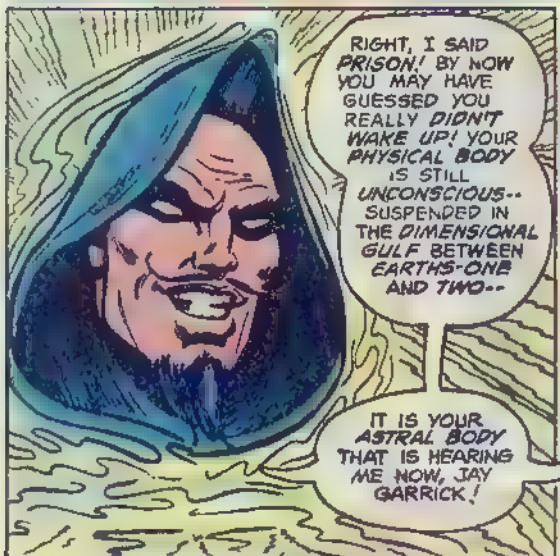
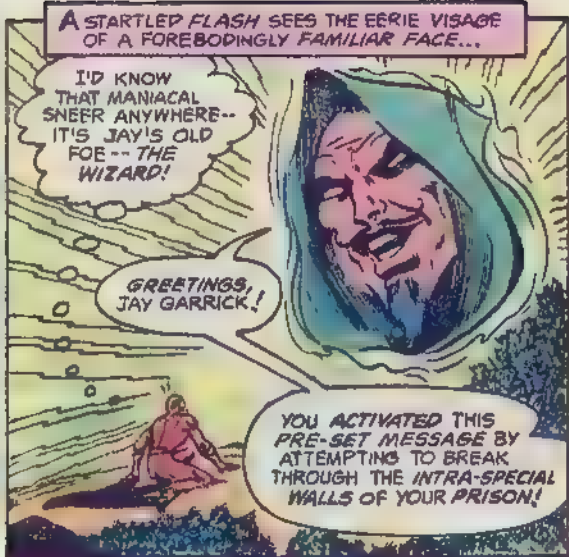
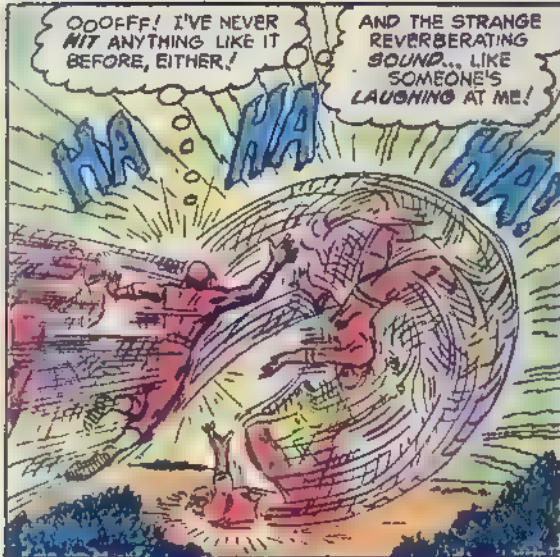
I'M GOING TO FIND OUT IN A REAL HURRY!



WHAT'S THIS?? A WEIRD, SHIMMERING BARRIER LOOMING UP ACROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE!

BUT NO SOONER HAS THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE RACED PAST THE CITY LIMITS...

I'LL BE ABLE TO EXAMINE IT MORE CLOSELY BY VIBRATING THROUGH IT!



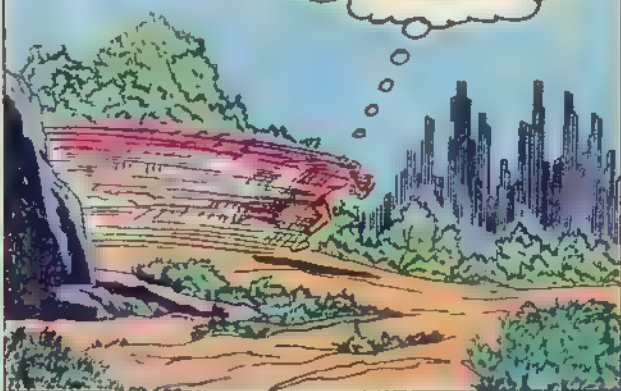
WHAT WIZARD COULDN'T HAVE FORESEEN WAS THAT I'D BE VIBRATING FROM THE FOCAL POINT INSTEAD OF JAY!

HIS PRE-SET TRAP CAPTURED A FLASH, ALL RIGHT--BUT NONE OF THE ASTRAL CHARACTERS IN JAY'S LIVING NIGHTMARE ARE CAPABLE OF REALIZING I'M THE WRONG FLASH!



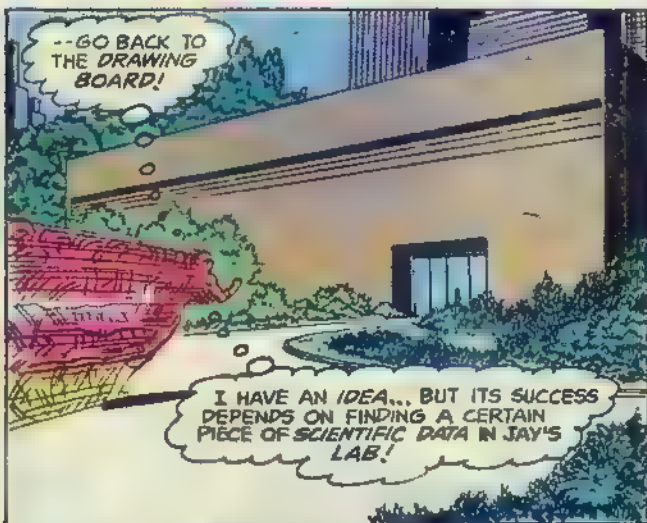
NOW THAT I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M UP AGAINST--WHAT NEXT?

HMMM...IF JAY WAS TRAPPED IN THIS IMAGINARY HELL... HE'D PROBABLY DO WHAT SCIENTISTS ARE SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN FACED WITH IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEMS--



--GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD!

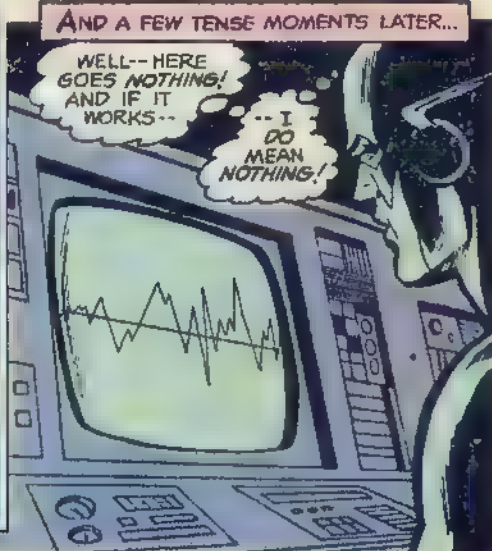
I HAVE AN IDEA... BUT ITS SUCCESS DEPENDS ON FINDING A CERTAIN PIECE OF SCIENTIFIC DATA IN JAY'S LAB!



AND A FEW TENSE MOMENTS LATER...

WELL--HERE GOES NOTHING! AND IF IT WORKS--

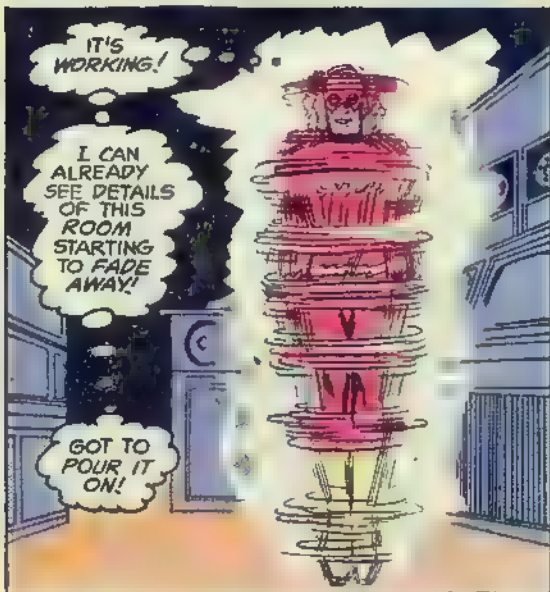
--I DO MEAN NOTHING!



IT'S WORKING!

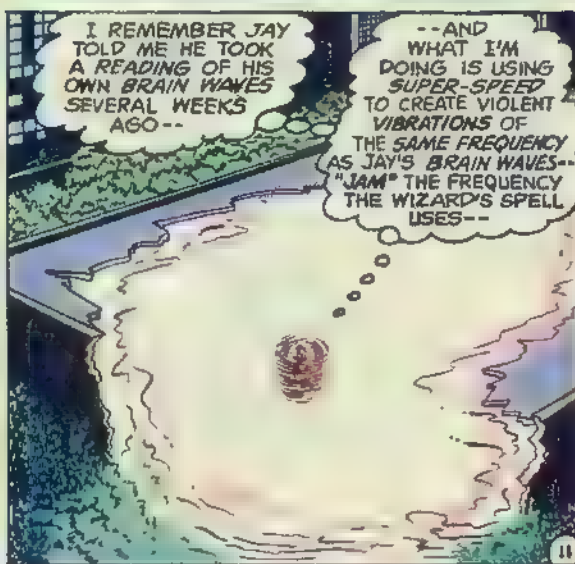
I CAN ALREADY SEE DETAILS OF THIS ROOM STARTING TO FADE AWAY!

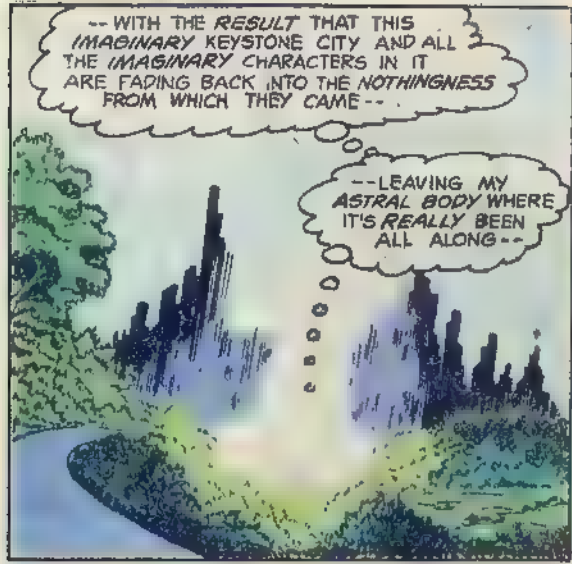
GOT TO POUR IT ON!



I REMEMBER JAY TOLD ME HE TOOK A READING OF HIS OWN BRAIN WAVES SEVERAL WEEKS AGO--

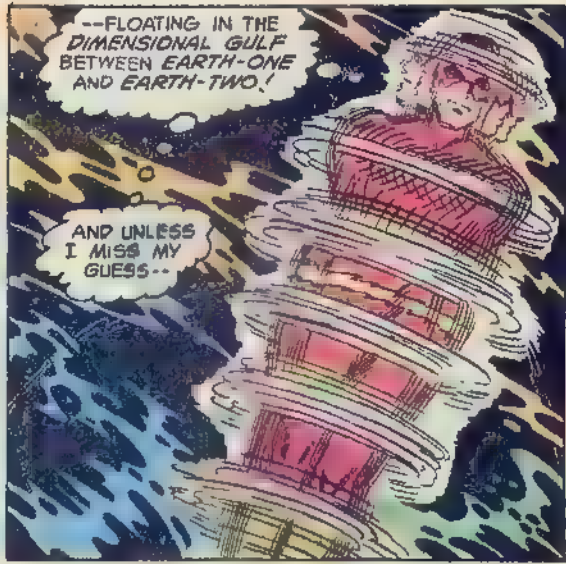
--AND WHAT I'M DOING IS USING SUPER-SPEED TO CREATE VIOLENT VIBRATIONS OF THE SAME FREQUENCY AS JAY'S BRAIN WAVES--"JAM" THE FREQUENCY THE WIZARD'S SPELL USES--





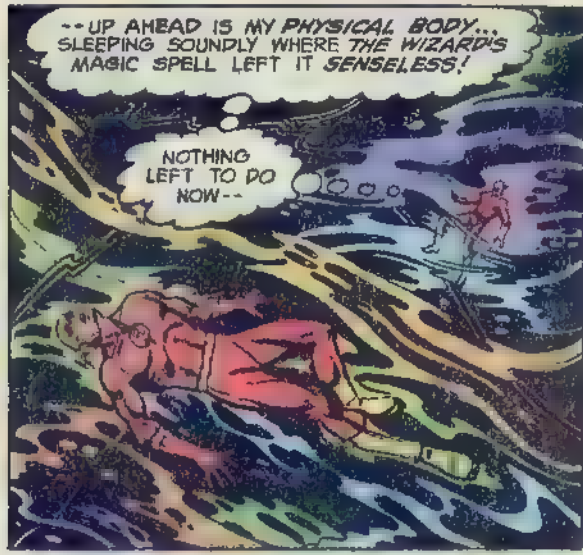
-- WITH THE RESULT THAT THIS IMAGINARY KEYSTONE CITY AND ALL THE IMAGINARY CHARACTERS IN IT ARE FADING BACK INTO THE NOTHINGNESS FROM WHICH THEY CAME --

-- LEAVING MY ASTRAL BODY WHERE IT'S REALLY BEEN ALL ALONG --



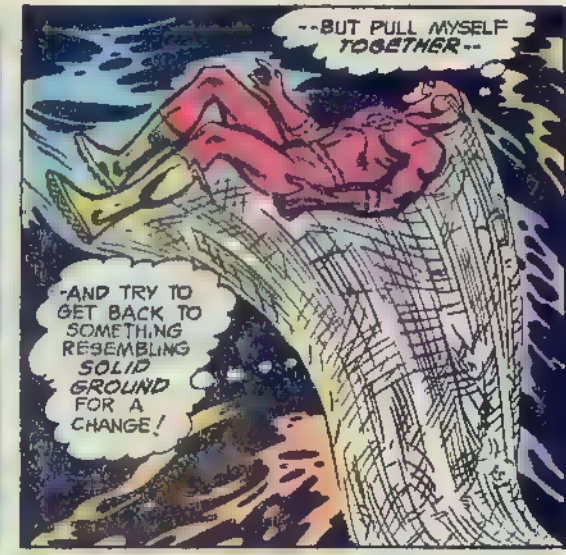
-- FLOATING IN THE DIMENSIONAL GULF BETWEEN EARTH-ONE AND EARTH-TWO --

AND UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS --



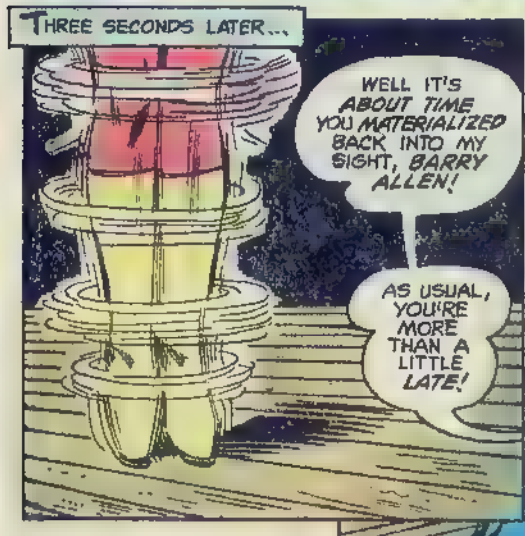
-- UP AHEAD IS MY PHYSICAL BODY... SLEEPING SOUNDLY WHERE THE WIZARD'S MAGIC SPELL LEFT IT SENSELESS! --

NOTHING LEFT TO DO NOW --



-- BUT PULL MYSELF TOGETHER --

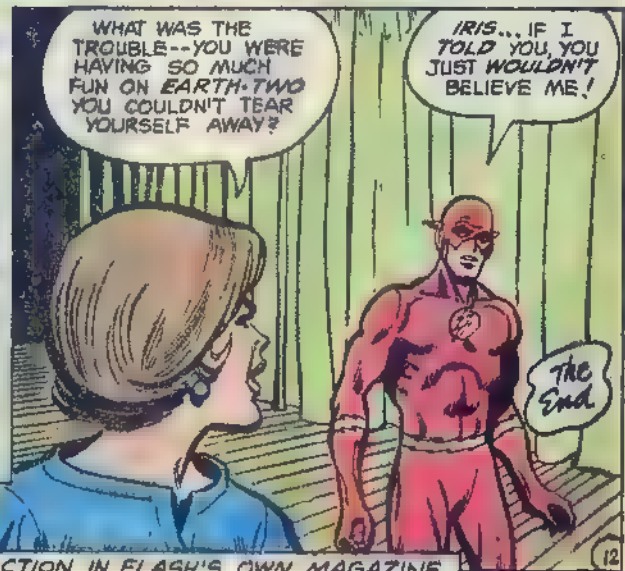
- AND TRY TO GET BACK TO SOMETHING RESEMBLING SOLID GROUND FOR A CHANGE! -



THREE SECONDS LATER...

WELL IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU MATERIALIZED BACK INTO MY SIGHT, BARRY ALLEN!

AS USUAL, YOU'RE MORE THAN A LITTLE LATE!



WHAT WAS THE TROUBLE--YOU WERE HAVING SO MUCH FUN ON EARTH-TWO YOU COULDN'T TEAR YOURSELF AWAY?

IRIS... IF I TOLD YOU, YOU JUST WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME!

The End

MURDERED BEFORE HIS RIGHTFUL TIME,
GRANTED THE BIZARRE ABILITY TO
POSSESS LIVING BODIES, THE SPIRIT
OF CIRCUS AERIALIST BOSTON BRAND
LIVES ON, TO STRIKE A BALANCE
BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL AS...

DEADMAN

THE CANVAS INFERNO!

CITY MORGUE: WITHIN THESE REFRIGERATED
CUBICLES LIE THE MORTAL REMAINS OF
THOSE WHOSE SPIRITS HAVE RECENTLY
DEPARTED THIS VALE OF TEARS FOR A
BETTER PLACE, OR ELSE A DECIDEDLY
WARMER ONE!

BUT THERE IS ONE SPIRIT WHO
PROWLS THESE STERILE HALLS
THIS EVENING WHOSE MORTAL
REMAINS LIE ELSEWHERE, A
SPIRIT WHO DOES NOT SEEK
PEACE OR ABSOLUTION--

--BUT RATHER THE
ANSWERS TO A MOST
BEGUILING MYSTERY!

I'D BETTER JUST
DO WHAT I CAME
HERE TO DO--THEN
SCRAM!

HEY, MAC--
IS THIS
WHERE THEY
STASHED THE
PUNK WHO SHOT
THAT CIRCUS
TRAPEZE
ARTIST--THEN
MURDERED
HIMSELF?!

YEAH,
BUT--!

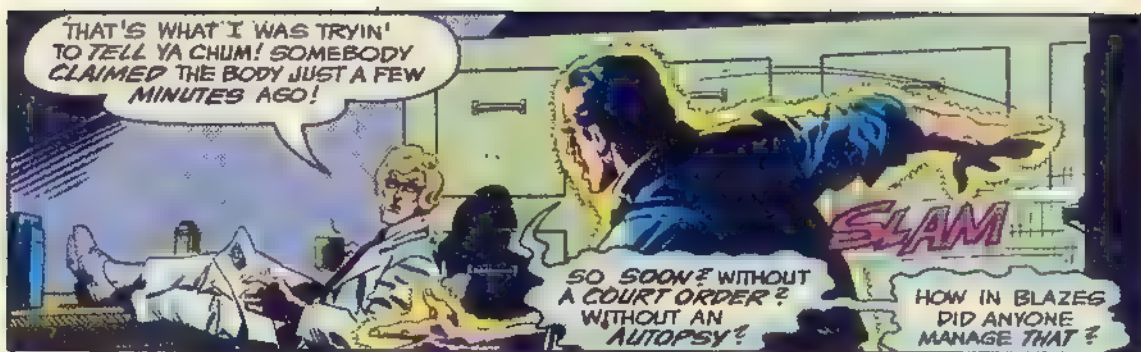
YOU'D THINK I WOULD
FEEL RIGHT AT HOME HERE--
BUT THIS JOINT ONLY GIVES
ME THE CREEPS!

AN ADVENTURE INTO DANGER WITH--
LEN WEIN - WRITER / JIM APARO - ARTIST
GLYNIS WEIN - COLORIST

MAYBE THIS CRUD'S CORPSE
WILL GIVE ME A CLUE AS TO
WHY HE TRIED TO WASTE
MY TWIN... HUN?

HEY--THIS
BOX IS
EMPTY!!

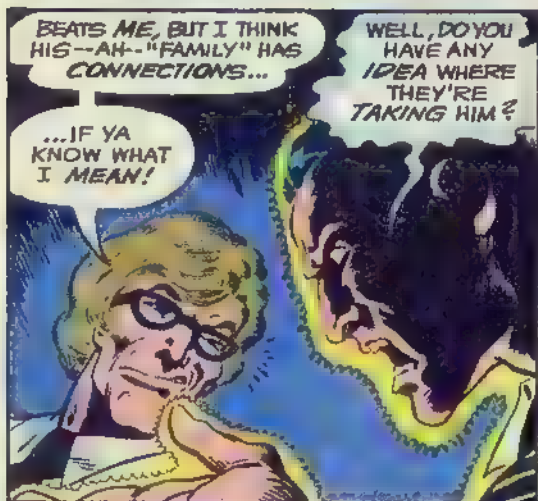
* A CAPSULE SYNOPSIS OF LAST
ISSUE'S DOINGS. --PAUL.



THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYIN' TO TELL YA CHUM! SOMEBODY CLAIMED THE BODY JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO!

SO SOON? WITHOUT A COURT ORDER? WITHOUT AN AUTOPSY?

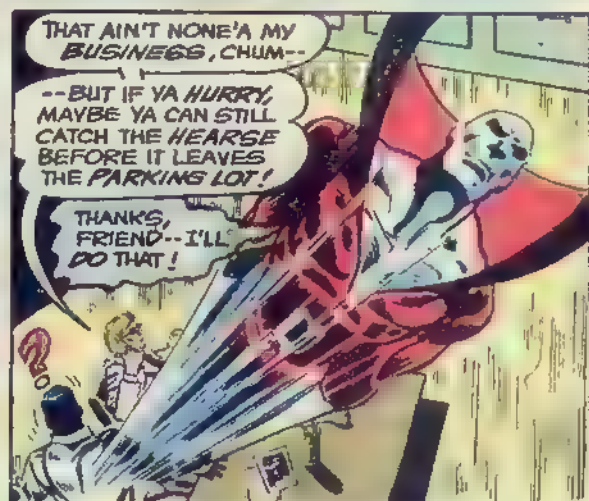
HOW IN BLAZES DID ANYONE MANAGE THAT?



BEATS ME, BUT I THINK HIS--AH--"FAMILY" HAS CONNECTIONS...

WELL, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE THEY'RE TAKING HIM?

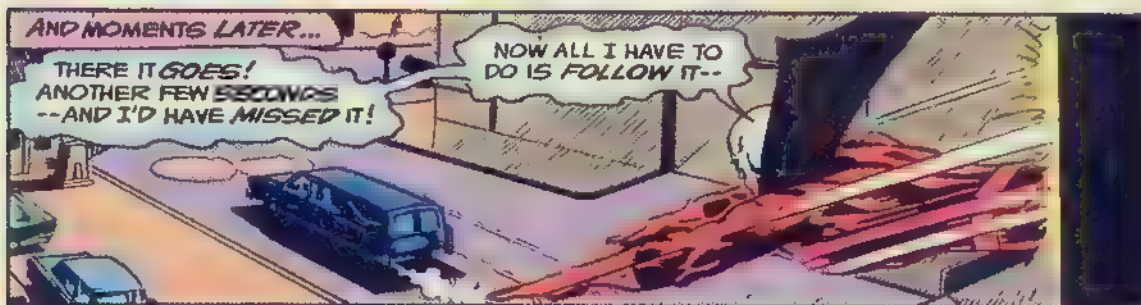
...IF YA KNOW WHAT I MEAN!



THAT AIN'T NONE'A MY BUSINESS, CHUM--

--BUT IF YA HURRY, MAYBE YA CAN STILL CATCH THE HEARSE BEFORE IT LEAVES THE PARKING LOT!

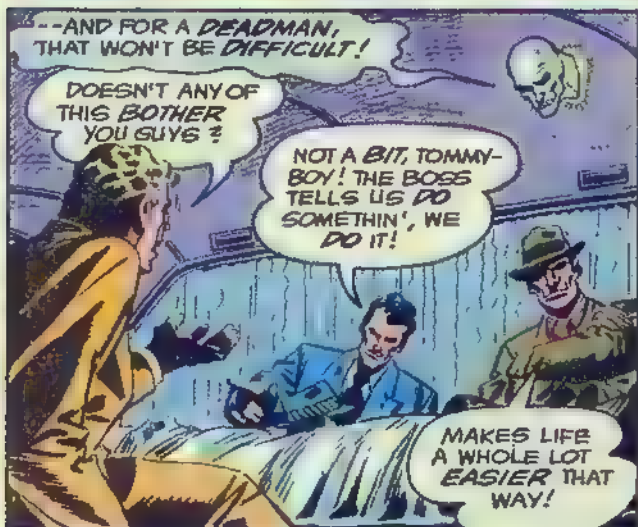
THANKS, FRIEND--I'LL DO THAT!



AND MOMENTS LATER...

THERE IT GOES! ANOTHER FEW SECONDS --AND I'D HAVE MISSED IT!

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW IT--

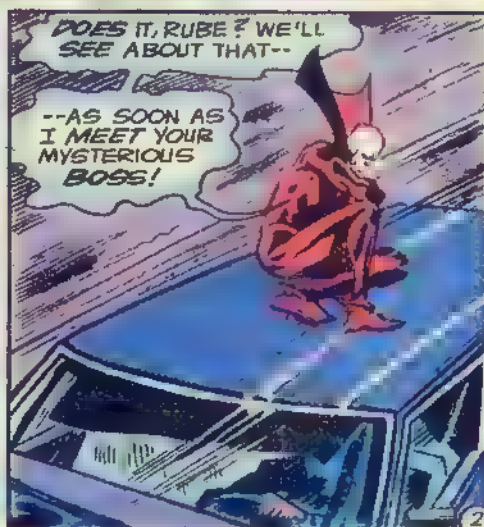


--AND FOR A DEADMAN, THAT WON'T BE DIFFICULT!

DOESN'T ANY OF THIS BOTHER YOU GUYS?

NOT A BIT, TOMMY-BOY! THE BOSS TELLS US DO SOMETHIN', WE DO IT!

MAKES LIFE A WHOLE LOT EASIER THAT WAY!



DOES IT, RUBE? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT--

--AS SOON AS I MEET YOUR MYSTERIOUS BOSS!

HILL'S CIRCUS:
THINGS HAVE NOT BEEN
GOING WELL FOR LORNA
HILL AND HER LOYAL
LITTLE TROUPE LATELY;
FIRST A SERIES OF
UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENTS,
THEN AN ATTEMPTED
MURDER, AND NOW...

YOU WANT TO BUY
THE CIRCUS--DESPITE
ALL OUR PROBLEMS?

IN HEAVEN'S
NAME--WHY?

SIMPLE ECONOMICS, DEAR
LADY! THE CONGLOMERATE I
REPRESENT IS LOOKING FOR
A SUITABLE TAX WRITE-OFF--
AND YOUR LITTLE ENTERPRISE
FITS OUR NEEDS
PERFECTLY!

I'M
SORRY, MR.
WINCHELL--BUT
OUR ANSWER
IS NO!

THIS IS MORE THAN
JUST A BUSINESS
TO US--IT'S A WAY
OF LIFE!

BUT I ASSURE YOU,
DEAR LADY, WE CAN
MAKE IT WELL WORTH...

EH?!!
HEY, YOU HEARD
MISS LORNA,
LITTLE FELLA--
WE AIN'T FOR
SALE!

COME NOW, TINY--PUT
THE GENTLEMAN DOWN!
HE WAS JUST LEAVING!

WERE YOU
NOT, GOOD
SIR?

ALL RIGHT, I'M
GOING, BUT I'LL
BE BACK!

MY EMPLOYERS
CAN BE MOST
STUBBORN!

AND SO CAN WE,
MR. WINCHELL!

NOW--
GOOD-BYE!

HMMPH!

IT'S OKAY,
CLEVE--YOU
CAN COME
OUT NOW!

I WAS SO
WORRIED!
WHEN I FIRST
SAW THAT MAN
WINCHELL, I THOUGHT
THOSE OF MY HOMETLAND
HAD FINALLY--!

I KEEP
TELLING YOU,
INGA--YOU'RE
SAFE HERE!

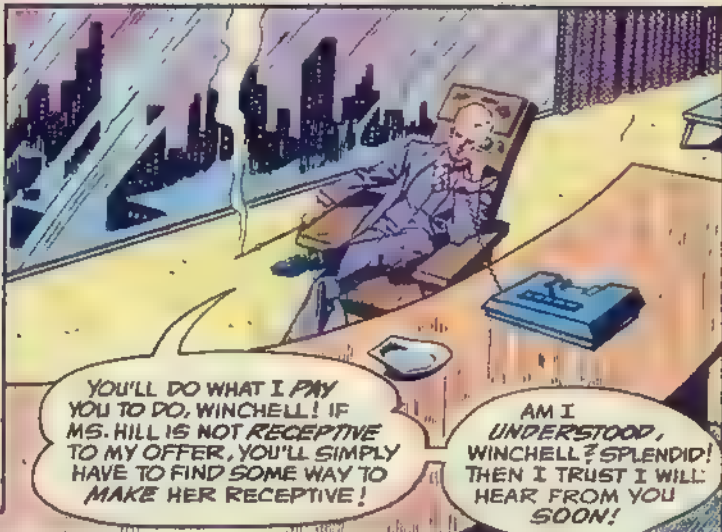
IRON CURTAIN DEFECTOR
OR OTHERWISE, YOU'RE MY
WIFE NOW! YOU'RE MRS.
CLEVELAND BRAND--

--AND
NOTHING IS
EVER GONNA
CHANGE
THAT!

YOU
LISTEN TO
HIM, HONEY--
BECAUSE
HE'S TALKING
FOR ALL OF
US!

WHILE... YES, SIR--I MADE HER THE OFFER PRECISELY AS YOU INSTRUCTED, BUT SHE WAS QUITE ADAMANT IN HER REFUSAL!

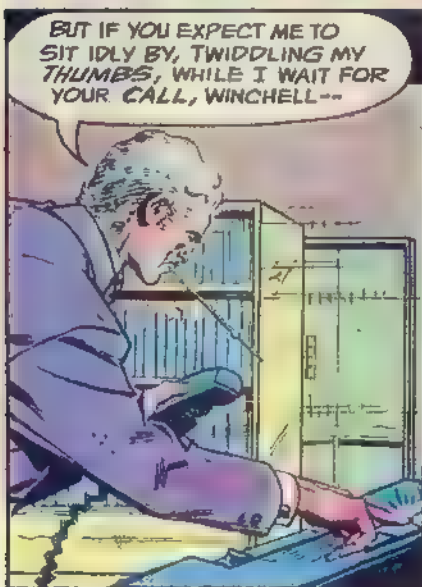
I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE I CAN POSSIBLY DO, SIR!



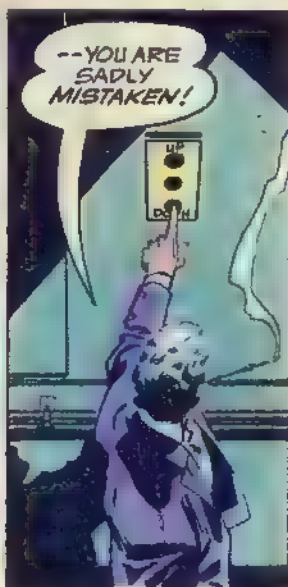
YOU'LL DO WHAT I PAY YOU TO DO, WINCHELL! IF MS. HILL IS NOT RECEPTIVE TO MY OFFER, YOU'LL SIMPLY HAVE TO FIND SOME WAY TO MAKE HER RECEPTIVE!

AM I UNDERSTOOD, WINCHELL? SPLENDID! THEN I TRUST I WILL HEAR FROM YOU SOON!

BUT IF YOU EXPECT ME TO SIT IDLY BY, TWIDDLING MY THUMBS, WHILE I WAIT FOR YOUR CALL, WINCHELL--



--YOU ARE SADLY MISTAKEN!



AND HOW IS OUR RELUCTANT GUEST THIS EVENING, GUNTHER?

A LITTLE RESTLESS, SIR-- BUT OTHERWISE HEALTHY!

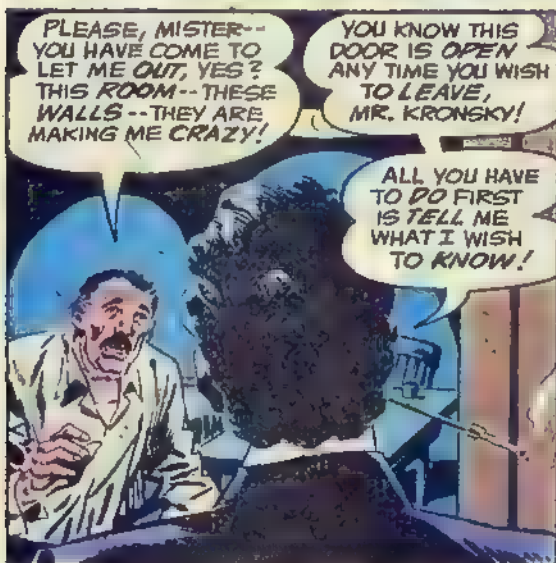
I THINK HE'S BEEN EXPECTING YOU!



PLEASE, MISTER-- YOU HAVE COME TO LET ME OUT, YES? THIS ROOM--THESE WALLS--THEY ARE MAKING ME CRAZY!

YOU KNOW THIS DOOR IS OPEN ANY TIME YOU WISH TO LEAVE, MR. KRONSKY!

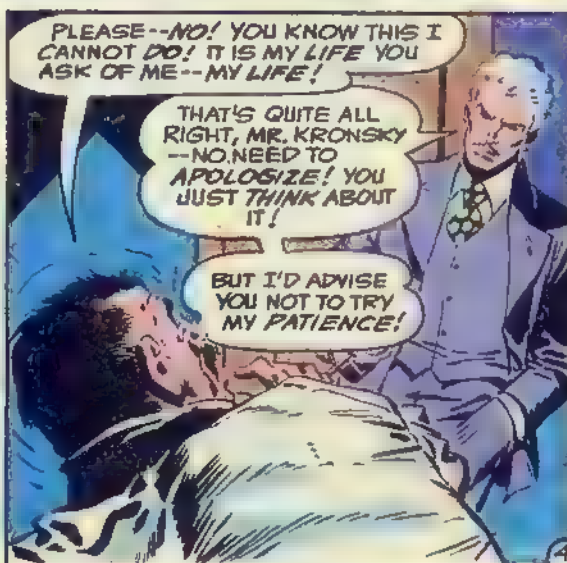
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO FIRST IS TELL ME WHAT I WISH TO KNOW!



PLEASE--NO! YOU KNOW THIS I CANNOT DO! IT IS MY LIFE YOU ASK OF ME--MY LIFE!

THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, MR. KRONSKY--NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE! YOU JUST THINK ABOUT IT!

BUT I'D ADVISE YOU NOT TO TRY MY PATIENCE!



THE WATERFRONT: IT GETS LONELY HERE AFTER DARK, WHEN THE BUILDINGS ALL STAND EMPTY, AND THE ONLY SOUNDS ARE THE GENTLE LAPPING OF THE WAVES AGAINST THE PIERS--

--AND THE FRANTIC SCURRYING OF THE RATS WHO PROWL THE SHADOWS!

IF THIS IS WHERE THE BIG BOSS LIVES, I CAN'T SAY MUCH FOR HIS TASTE!

HEY, YOU AIN'T LOOKIN' TOO GOOD, TOMMY-BOY! YOU OKAY?

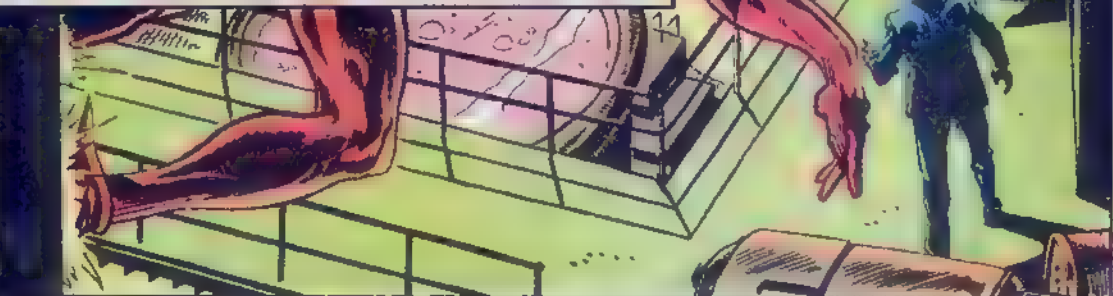
I DON'T KNOW... THIS WHOLE LOUSY BUSINESS IS STARTING TO STINK!

AT FIRST, IT SEEMED LIKE A GREAT WAY TO MAKE QUICK CASH, BUT NOW--!

YOU LET THE BOSS HEAR YA SAY THAT, TOMMY-- AND THE NEXT TIME IT MIGHT BE YOU UNDER THIS SHEET!

C'MON, HARRY-- YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT! I'M JUST LETTING OFF STEAM, IS ALL!

CARRYING THIS CORPSE AROUND IS MAKING ME JUMPY!



IN THAT CASE, TOMMY-BOY-- YOU AIN'T GOT NOthin' TA WORRY ABOUT!

ONCE WE DUMP THIS STIFF INTO THAT ACID BATH, OUR JOB HERE IS FINISHED!

AND SO IS MY ONLY HOPE OF FINDING OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT--

--UNLESS I JUMP INTO THINGS WITH BOTH FEET--AND FAST!

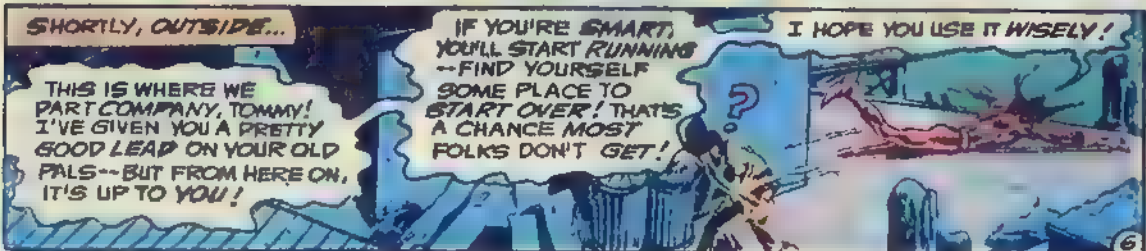
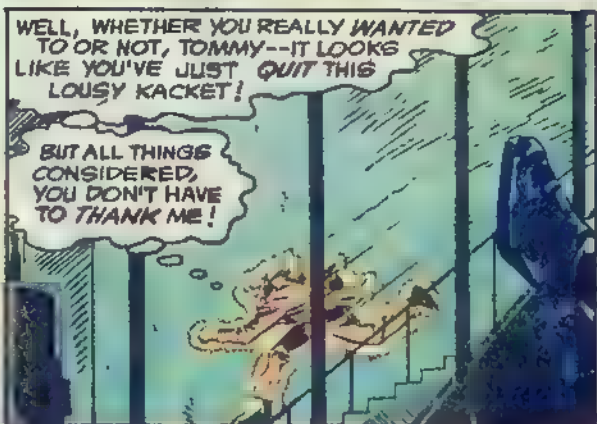
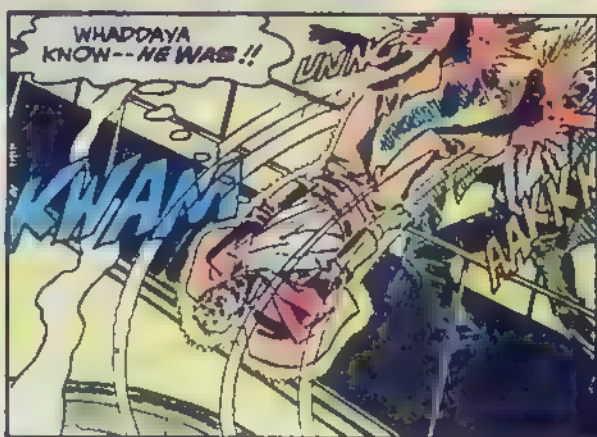
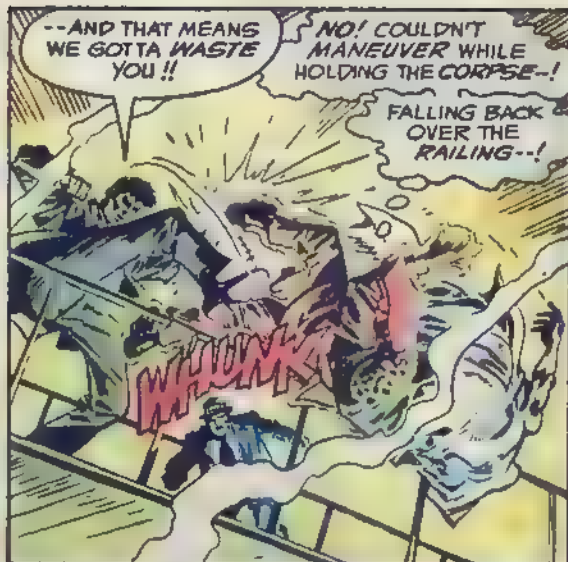
C'MON, LET'S GET THIS OVER...

UH.

CRIPES, TOMMY-BOY -- WHAT NOW?

IF I TOLD YOU, HARRY-BOY -- YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE ME!

UNNNFF !!



HILL'S CIRCUS: THE FINAL PERFORMANCE OF THE EVENING IS LONG SINCE OVER--THE CANVAS TENTS ARE FASTENED SHUT, THE SAWDUST-STREWN RINGS ARE DARK!

IT IS A HAUNTINGLY QUIET TIME--A TIME FOR REFLECTION--

--AND NOWHERE MORE SO THAN IN THE CANDLE-LIT DWELLING OF THE FORTUNE-TELLING VASHNU...

HAVE YOU NOTICED IT, VASHNU? MY DAD SEEMS SO DIFFERENT SINCE HE MARRIED INGA--LIKE HE WAS CARRYING A HEAVY WEIGHT AROUND!

CLEVELAND BRAND HAS KNOWN MUCH SORROW IN HIS LIFE, YOUNG LITA--THE DEATH OF YOUR BELOVED MOTHER--THE MURDER OF HIS TWIN BROTHER BOSTON--!

PERHAPS HE FEARS THE LOSS OF WHAT LITTLE HE HAS LEFT--INGA--YOU--THIS CIRCUS!

HE DOES NOT YET REALIZE THAT RAMA KUSHNA--SPIRIT OF THE UNIVERSE--MOVES IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS, HER WONDER TO PERFORM!

BUT I STILL DON'T SEE WHY... HUH?

VASHNU, DO YOU SMELL SOMETHING?

BY THE SOUL OF RAMA, THE TENT-- IT IS ABLAZE--!

HEY RUBE!
HEY RUBE!

HAUL OUT THE HOSES!!

LORD--NO! THAT'S VASHNU'S TENT--AND LITA WAS IN THERE WITH HIM!

WE'RE BURNIN' BOYS-- WE'RE BURNIN'!!

VASHNU-- NO! THE TENT-FLAP'S BURNING! WE-- WE'RE TRAPPED!

CLEVE, YOU MUST DO SOMETHING--ANYTHING! YOU CAN'T JUST LET YOUR DAUGHTER DIE!

BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, INGA! GOD HELP ME--I JUST DON'T KNOW!

THEN IT'S A DAMN GOOD THING I DECIDED TO COME BACK HERE, DEAR BROTHER--

--BECAUSE I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO!

BUT I'M GONNA HAVE TO BORROW YOUR BODY TO DO IT!

THIS MASK SHOULD
HELP PROTECT CLEVE'S
FACE FROM THE FIRE
FOR A WHILE--

--NOT THAT
IT'LL MAKE ANY
DIFFERENCE
IF I BLOW
THIS STUNT!

CLEVE?
CLEVE,
WHERE ARE
YOU
GOING?

THERE'S NO WAY TO GET
TO LITA AND VASHNU
THROUGH THOSE FLAMES,
LORNA DOLL--SO I'M
GONNA TRY ANOTHER
APPROACH!

TINY, HANG ON
TO THE END OF
THE GUY-WIRE
I'M GONNA RELEASE
--AND WHEN I TELL
YOU TO, YOU PULL
ON IT FOR ALL
YOU'RE WORTH!

DON'T YOU
WORRY, MISTER
CLEVE--TINY
WON'T FAIL YA!

TENSE MOMENTS PASS,
AS THE CRIMSON-CLAD
FIGURE UNFURLS THE
GUY-WIRE, SECURES
ONE END OF IT AROUND
HIS OWN CHEST--

--AND THEN, WITH
SOMETHING AKIN
TO A PRAYER ON
HIS CHALKY LIPS--

--HE
LEAPS!!

CLEVELAND
--NO!

WOOOO!!

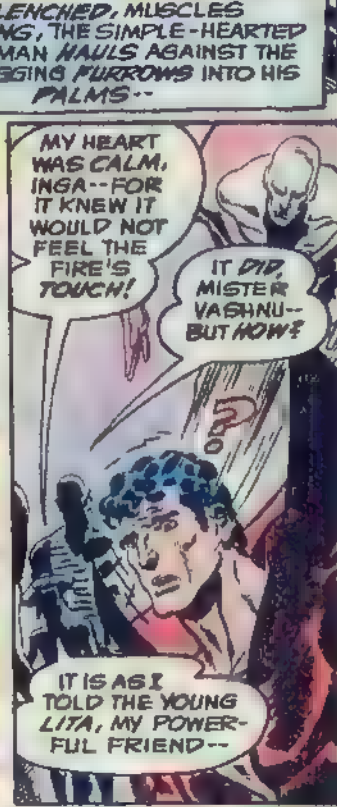
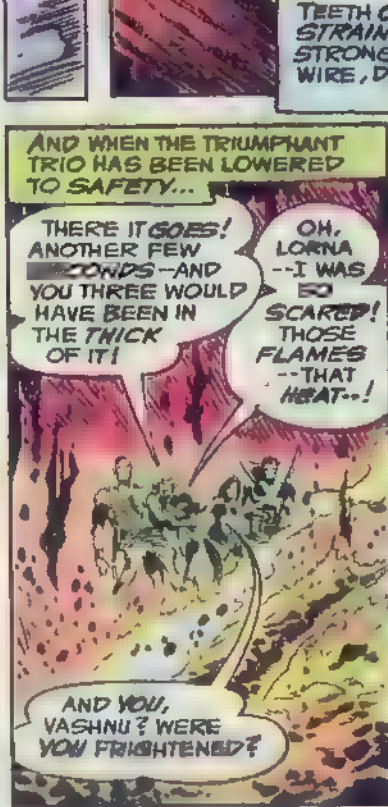
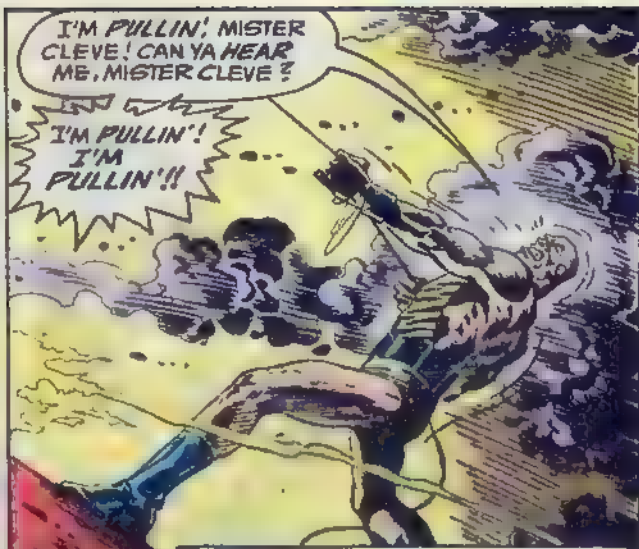
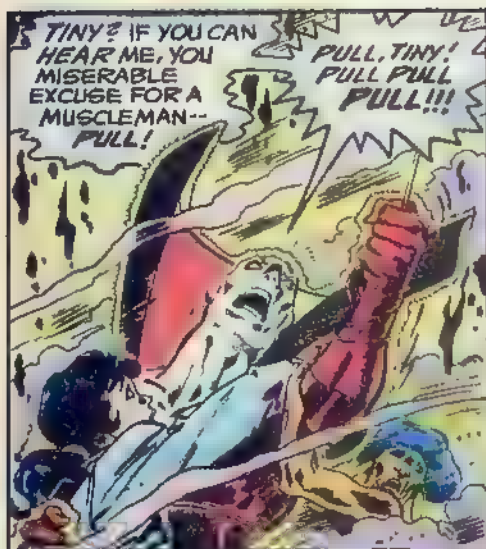
ANYBODY
HERE CALL
FOR A CAB?

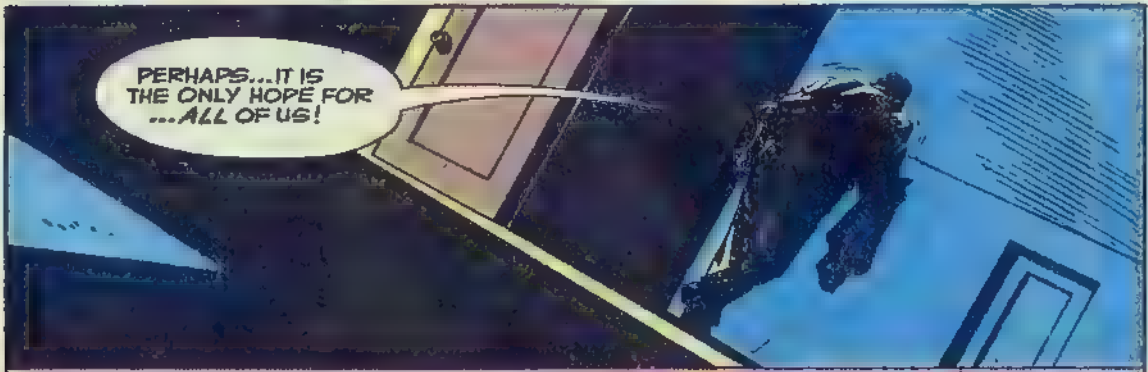
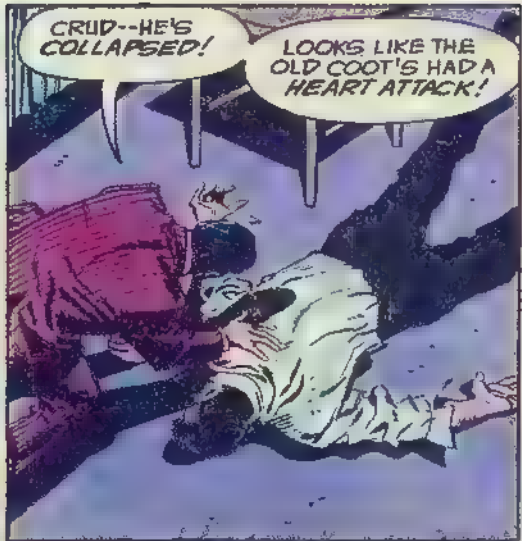
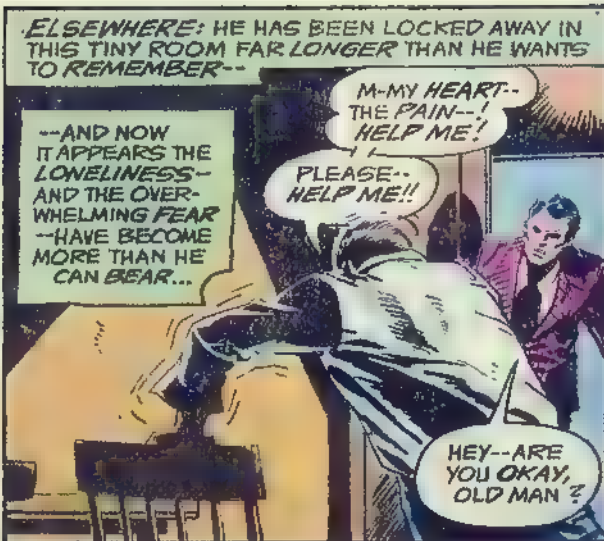
DADDY!!

BY THE
SPIRIT OF
RAMA--IT IS
A MIRACLE!

NOT YET IT ISN'T, VASHNU
OL' BUDDY! IF THE THREE
OF US MANAGE TO GET BACK
OUT OF HERE, THEN IT'LL
BE A MIRACLE!

NOW MAKE
SURE YOU'VE BOTH
GOT A GOOD GRIP
ON ME! WE ONLY
GET TO TRY THIS
ONCE!





AND IF YOU THINK THINGS ARE COMPLICATED NOW, BE HERE NEXT TIME FOR... **"PURSUIT!"**

PRESENTING WITH PRIDE: The epic Ending of Jack Kirby's Fourth World Trilogy...the ultimate confrontation between Darkseid of Apokolips and...

ORION OF THE NEW GODS

PART
THREE
CHAPTER
6

PURSUIT TO ETERNITY

OUTWARD FROM
THE CLUSTERED
STARS OF THE
GALAXY'S HEART,
OUTWARD FROM THE
SPIRAL ARMS WHICH
EMBRACE SO MANY
MILLION WORLDS,
OUTWARD FROM THE
REALMS OF KNOWN
SPACE, THERE IS--

THE FINAL
BARRIER

IT LIES BEYOND THIS PLACE OF
GIANTS WHICH THE GODS HAVE
NAMED THE PROMETHEAN GALAXY
--THESE BEINGS, GROWN TOO HUGE
FOR THOUGHT OR MOTION, WERE
ONCE SEEKERS OF TRUTH...

LIKE COUNTLESS OTHERS, THEY SOUGHT TO
PIERCE THE FINAL BARRIER, AND LEARN THE
SECRET OF THE SOURCE--INSTEAD, THEY PAID
A HIGH PRICE FOR THEIR CURIOSITY--

TRANSFORMED INTO CREATURES
THE SIZE OF WORLDS, THEY FLOAT
IN THE SEA OF NIGHT LIKE THINGS
DEAD, DREAMING DARK DREAMS
OF RUINED DESTINY...

AN ADVENTURE
OF COSMIC
PROPORTIONS BY:
BERRY CONWAY
•WRITER•
DON NEWTON
•PENCILLER•
AUGIE SCOTTO
•INKER•
BEN ODA
•LETTERER•
JERRY SERPE
•COLORIST•
INSPIRED BY
JACK KIRBY,
•CREATOR•

...DREAMS NOW DISTURBED BY THE PRESENCE OF... ANOTHER:

THEIR ERROR WAS IN
APPROACHING THE FINAL
BARRIER WITHOUT THE
PROTECTION OF ANTI-LIFE!
IT IS AN ERROR I SHALL
NOT REPEAT.

I HAVE JOINED
THE ANTI-LIFE
EQUATION TO MY
OMEGA FORCE
AND THE
COMBINATION—

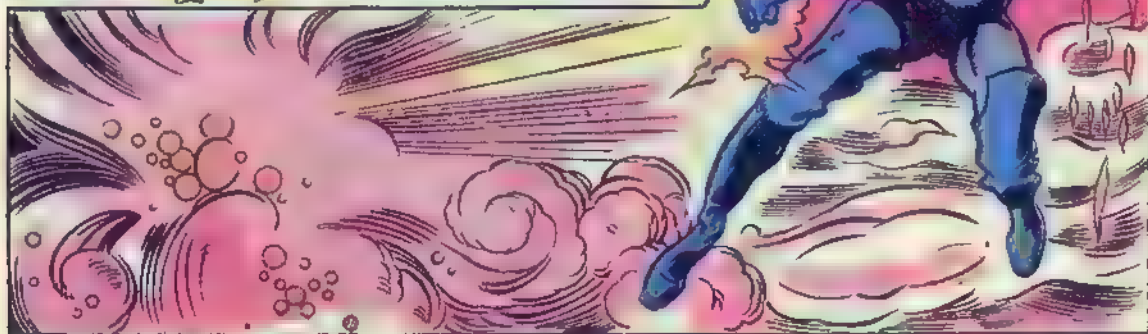
ZAAG
ZARAAM

--IS INVINCIBLE!

SO FALL THE
ROCK TROLLS
WHO SERVE AS
THE FIRST
STAGE IN
THE FINAL
BARRIER!

AND SO PARTS
THE TIME STORM
WHICH PROVIDES
THE SECOND
OBSTACLE--!

NOW ONLY THE
BARRIER ITSELF
STANDS BEFORE
ME...



WHEN IT FALLS...
THE COSMIC SECRET
WILL BE MINE!

ONLY THE BARRIER, DARKSIDE?

WHAT ABOUT..

...ORION?

AS FATHER AND SON CONVERGE FOR THEIR LAST CONFRONTATION, ELSEWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE, OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE DESTINED EQUATION PURSUE THEIR OWN, PREDETERMINED ENDS...

PIECES OF A PUZZLE:

SCENE: WASHINGTON, D.C.;
AMERICA; EARTH...

THE MOTHER BOX...
RESPONDING TO
ANOTHER BOX IN
THE POSSESSION
OF THE SIX HUMANS!

SHOULD I
ABANDON MY
FRIENDS--PURSUE
A POSSIBLE
FALSE LEAD?

THE CHOICE IS
MINE... A CHOICE I
CANNOT AVOID! I
GO... AND PRAY TO
THE SOURCE THAT
THIS IS NO BLEAK
BETRAYAL!

WERE I TO REACH
THEM, THIS CONFLICT
MIGHT BE RESOLVED...

BOOM

SCENE: DARKSEID'S PALACE;
ARMAGETTO; APOKOLIPS...

I AM YOUR MASTER
NOW! DARKSEID HAS
DESERTED US--AND
NOW DESAAD RULES
APOKOLIPS!

MAN THE
UNI-CANNON! BEFORE
THE NIGHT IS OUT!

--THE GODS OF NEW
GENESIS WILL BE
OUR SLAVES--

--OR
THEY'LL
BE DEAD!

SCENE: HIGHFATHER'S
GARDEN: NEW GENESIS...

I HAVE THOUGHT
LONG, AND THE
CONCLUSION IS
INESCAPABLE!

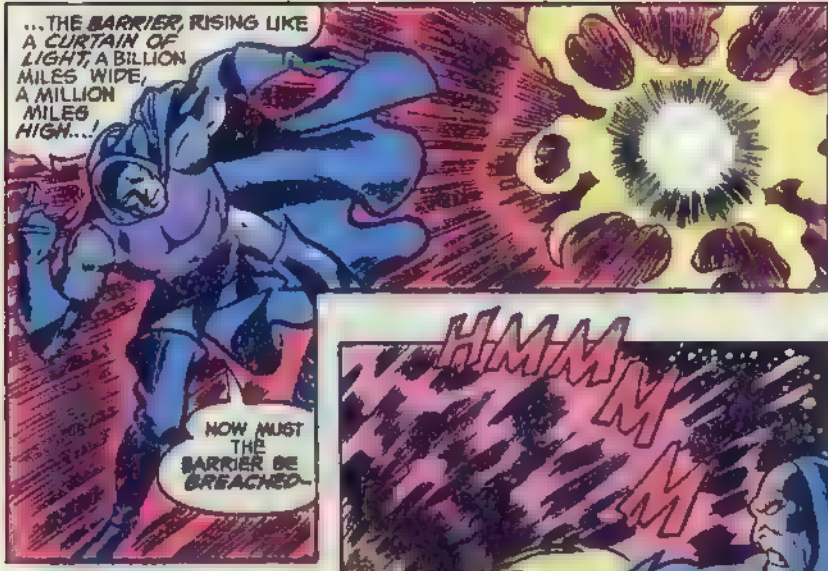
NO LONGER MUST I
ALLOW ORION TO SHOULDER
THE BURDEN OF DEATH ALONE!
THIS IS IZAYA'S BATTLE, AND
ALWAYS HAS BEEN...

IT IS TIME ONCE
MORE... TO LIFT UP
THE SWORD!

SHOOOSH

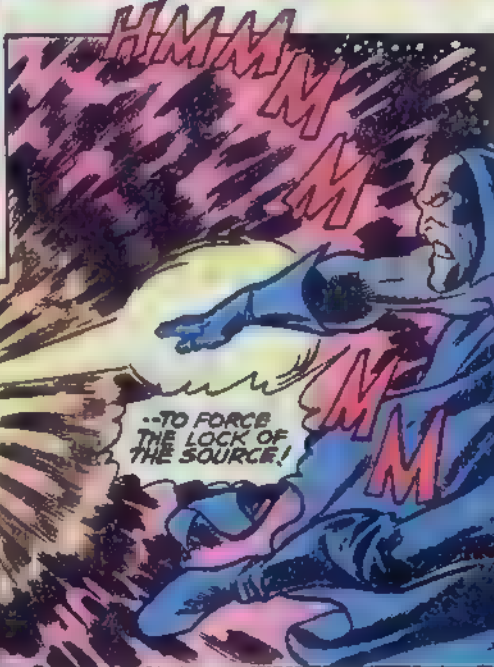
PIECES OF A PUZZLE: WHERE THEY MAY FIT, ONLY FATE NOW KNOWS...

...THE BARRIER, RISING LIKE
A CURTAIN OF
LIGHT, A BILLION
MILES WIDE,
A MILLION
MILES
HIGH...



NOW MUST
THE
BARRIER BE
BREACHED.

--USING THE KEY
OF ANTI-LIFE--



HMM
M
M

--TO FORCE
THE LOCK OF
THE SOURCE!



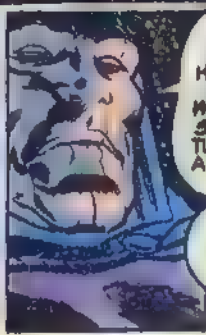
MADMAN, THIS
DAY YOU HAVE
GONE TOO FAR--!

WHAMMO

THIS
TRESPASS
MUST NOT BE!
THERE ARE SECRETS
AND WISDOMS FORBIDDEN
EVEN TO THE GODS. YOU
WILL NOT PASS, DARKSEID!

BY MY EYES
I FORBID IT!

YOU FORBID
IT? IZAYA THE
WEAK? IZAYA
THE FOOL?



I WILL CHERISH
THIS MOMENT,
OLD Foe. LONG
HAVE I DESPISED
YOU FOR THE
WEAKENING OF MY
SON, THE WAY YOU'VE
TURNED HIM FROM
A WARRIOR TO A
WORRIER!

LONG HAVE I
PROMISED MY-
SELF THAT ONE
DAY WE WOULD
MEET--!

NOW, O JOY
OF JOYS--

--THE DAY
HAS COME!

BAKOWW

PRIEST-LEADER,
YOUR WISDOM
IS NO MATCH
FOR MY SAVAGERY!

YOUR LOVE
OF LIFE
IS NO
DEFENSE--

K
A
Z
O
M

--AGAINST MY
HATE!

WHOOM

YOU CALL YOURSELF
A GOD, YET YOU'VE
NEVER GUESSED THE
TRUTH OF THE COSMIC
JEST: LIFE EXISTS
BUT TO BE ENDED--

--AND DARKSEID HAS COME
TO END ALL LIFE, AND THEN
CAUSE A REBIRTH--

KRAK

DADDOOM

RHAMM

KIRPOW

--OF
MONSTERS--

--AND MEN--

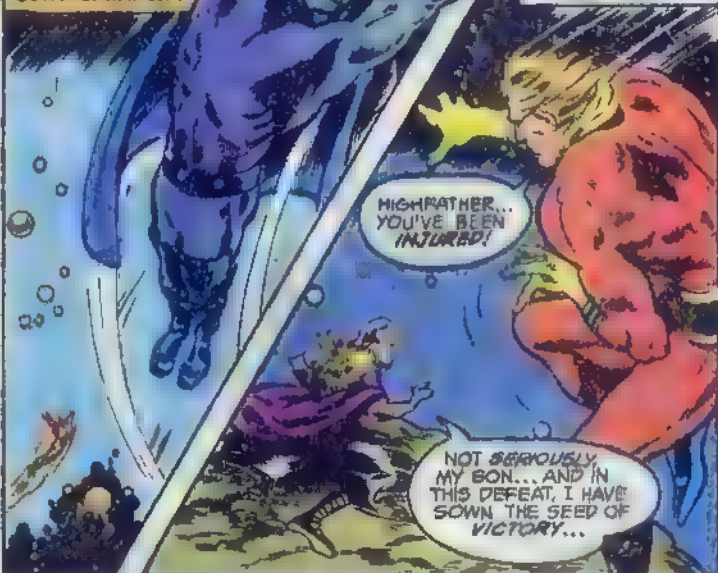
--WHO ARE MY
CREATIONS
ALONE!

CONTEMPTUOUSLY, THE MASTER OF
APOKOLIPS STEPS BACK TO LET IZAYA
COLLAPSE LIKE A FALLING LEAF, AND
IF HE NOTICES THE TRIUMPHANT
SMILE UPON THE OLD GOD'S FACE,
HE PAYS IT NO MIND--



--CONSIDERING IT BUT THE
PITIFUL GRIMACE OF A GOD
WHO HAS MET HIS ULTIMATE
CHALLENGE...AND FAILED!

WITH NO BACKWARD
GLANCE, DARKSEID
FLIES ON... WHILE
BEHIND HIM, ANOTHER
FIGURE APPEARS IN THE
FIRMAMENT, A FIGURE
WHO HAS WITNESSED
THE CLIMAX OF THIS
BATTLE WITH
CONSTERNATION..



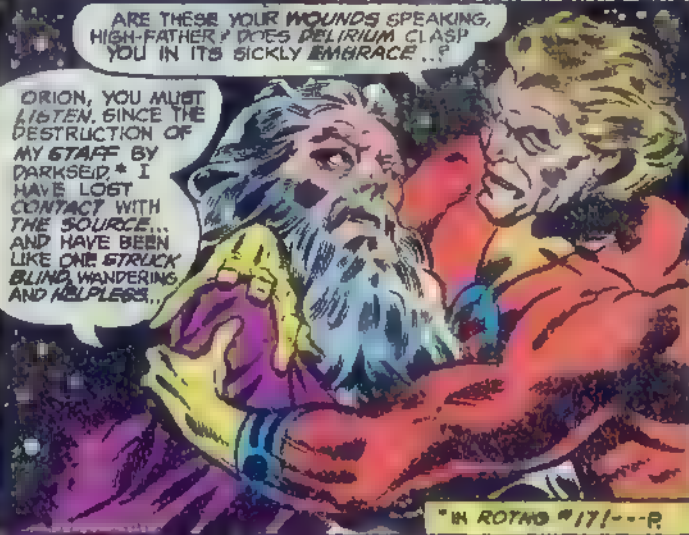
AND NOW DROPS
TO HIGH-FATHER'S
SIDE, HIS FEATURES
WROUGHT WITH
CARE ..

HIGHFATHER...
YOU'VE BEEN
INJURED!

NOT SERIOUSLY
MY SON... AND IN
THIS DEFEAT, I HAVE
SOWN THE SEED OF
VICTORY...

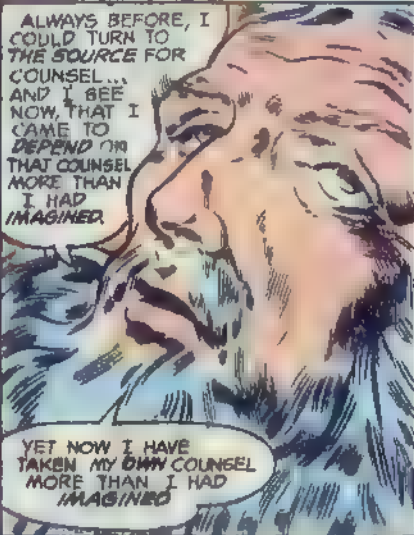
ARE THESE YOUR WOUNDS SPEAKING,
HIGH-FATHER? DOES DELIRIUM CLASP
YOU IN ITS SICKLY EMBRACE...?

ORION, YOU MUST
LISTEN, SINCE THE
DESTRUCTION OF
MY STAFF BY
DARKSEID* I
HAVE LOST
CONTACT WITH
THE SOURCE...
AND HAVE BEEN
LIKE ONE STRUCK
BLIND, WANDERING
AND HELPLESS...



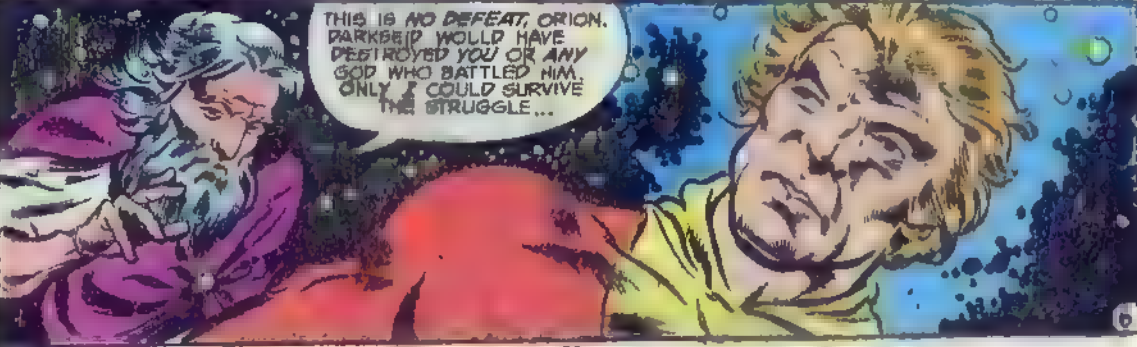
"IN ROTHO" 171--R

ALWAYS BEFORE, I
COULD TURN TO
THE SOURCE FOR
COUNSEL...
AND I SEE
NOW, THAT I
CAME TO
DEPEND ON
THAT COUNSEL
MORE THAN
I HAD
IMAGINED.



YET NOW I HAVE
TAKEN MY OWN COUNSEL
MORE THAN I HAD
IMAGINED

THIS IS NO DEFEAT, ORION.
DARKSEID WOULD HAVE
DESTROYED YOU OR ANY
GOD WHO BATTLED HIM.
ONLY I COULD SURVIVE
THE STRUGGLE...



...AND ONLY I COULD DO...
WHAT MUST BE DONE.

BUT WHAT, HIGH-FATHER?
WHAT DID YOU DO?

DARKSEID PLANS TO
PIERCE THE FINAL
BARRIER, AND INTENDS
TO PROTECT HIMSELF
FROM THE FORCES
BEYOND BY MEANS
OF THE ANTI-LIFE
EQUATION...

IN FIGHTING ME, HE USED
HIS OMEGA FORCE... WHICH
HE HAS STRENGTHENED WITH
ANTI-LIFE! HE USED A GREAT
DEAL OF THE FORCE...

...SO MUCH SO, THAT
NOW, HIS POWER IS
WEAKENED...

HE WILL NOT HAVE THE
STRENGTH TO DEFEND
HIMSELF AGAINST BOTH
THE BARRIER--AND YOU,
ORION! YOU--OR THE
BARRIER--WILL CRUSH
HIM!

NOW IS
YOUR OPPORTUNITY,
MY SON.

GO...

GO...

UNCONSCIOUS...
POSSIBLY
DYING!

DARKSEID!

SIMULTANEOUSLY, ON EARTH...

YOU--AND THE OTHERS!
ACCOMPANY ME AT ONCE!

COUNTLESS LIVES
DEPEND ON YOUR
SPEED!

A BOOM TUBE--
AND METRON!

TALK ABOUT
YOUR LIFE-
SAVERS! MISTER,
GET US OUT OF
HERE!

BOOM

LESS THAN AN INSTANT
LATER, IN WASHINGTON, D.C.,
THE SUMMER AIR THUNDERS,
AS--

BOOM

THE
SCIENTIST
RETURNS! BUT
--IS HE MAD?
HE'S BROUGHT
HUMANS?

NOT JUST
HUMANS,
JEZEBELLE!
THOSE ARE
OUR WARDS!

HURRY, METRON! YOU HAVE TO TELL US--WHAT DO WE DO?

JOIN YOUR HANDS AROUND THE
MOTHER BOX, LORRAINE HAMPTON.
TRY TO PROBE YOUR DEEP
SUB-CONSCIOUS...

LET MOTHER BOX
GUIDE YOU TO THE
ROOT OF YOUR
SOULS...

...ONCE YOU HAVE
ACHIEVED THIS
STATE...SHE WILL
KNOW THE REST...

AROUND THEM, THE BATTLE GROWS MORE
INTENSE, AS THOUGH THE MINIONS OF THE
ANTAGONIST ARE AWARE THAT THESE SIX
HUMANS POSE THE GREATEST THREAT...

YET DESPITE THE
BATTLE--OR PER-
HAPS BECAUSE OF
IT--THE HUMANS
STRAIN THEMSELVES
BEYOND THEIR
IMAGINED CAPABIL-
ITIES, EVEN MATTHEW
TORCH AND RICHARD
ROE...

--AND USES IT TO UNDO THE
DAMAGE IT HAS WROUGHT:

YAAA AARRH

AND IN THE END,
MOTHER BOX
UNCOVERS THE
ANTI-LIFE EQUATION
CONCEALED WITHIN
THESE MORTAL MINDS--

--GONE!

THIS IS HOW IT ENDS ON EARTH...

8

AT THE FINAL BARRIER
THE ENDING IS FAR MORE...
DRAMATIC...

FACE ME FATHER!
FACE YOUR SON--
BEFORE HE
DESTROYS
YOU!

DESTROY ME?
YOUR WORDS ARE
A MOCKERY!
YOUR LIFE IS A
MOCKERY!

NO LONGER WILL
YOU INSULT ME.
WITH YOUR
EXISTENCE! I
OFFERED YOU MY
HAND, AND YOU
SPURNED IT!

-- BUT THIS
YOU CANNOT
SPURN!

SHOOM

BUT IZAYA'S
STRATEGY IS
SUCCESSFUL,
AND THOUGH
ORION REELS,
HIS ASTRO-FORCE
PROVIDES A
MOMENTARY
SHIELD FROM
DARKSEID'S
RAGE--

--AND WHEN HE STRIKES BACK, IT IS WITH A
POWER DARKSEID FINDS IRRESISTIBLE!

IMPOSSIBLE! YOUR BEAMS
HAVE SHATTERED MY OMEGA
FORCE!

I'M TUMBLING
BACKWARD INTO
THE BARRIER--
WITHOUT
PROTECTION!
I'LL BE--

AAANNIHILATED!

SAWR-ROOM

FOR WHEN HE
REBOUNDS FROM THE
BARRIER, AND SPEEDS
HOMEWARD THROUGH
THE COSMOS, IT IS NOT
IN THE SHAPE OF A
GOD--

BUT THE DARK
LORD IS NOT
DESTROYED!
PROPELLED INTO
THAT SHAWERING
CURTAIN, HE
SUFFERS THE
FATE OF A
MILLION OTHER
EXPLORERS OF
THE FORBIDDEN...

--BUT IN THE RAPIDLY-EXPANDING FORM
OF A PROMETHEAN, DOOMED TO A
SARGANTUAN IMMOBILITY--

--OR PERHAPS AN EVEN MORE IRONIC FATE:

MOTHER'S BLOOD!
THERE'S SOME
PLANET-SIZED
CREATURE SPEEDING
TOWARD APOKOLIPS
FROM THE
GALACTIC RIM!

AIM THE
UNI-CANNON!
FIRE!
FIRE!

YADOOM

EPILOGUE: FOR FORTY
NIGHTS, METEORS RAIN
UPON THE CRATERED SURFACE
OF APOKOLIPS, AND FOR
FORTY NIGHTS, A SCREAMING
SEEMS TO FILL THE SKY, LIKE
THE WAIL OF A GOD GONE MAD

AND THOUGH THERE ARE FESTIVALS
ON NEW GENESIS FOR THE GODS WHO
HAVE RETURNED VICTORIOUS, THERE
ARE SOME GODS PRESENT WHO SEEM
TO HEAR AN ECHO OF THAT WAIL ...

ONE SUCH GOD IS YOUNG ORION,
CALLED THE HUNTER...

FOR HIM, THE FESTIVALS ARE LESS JOYOUS
THAN THEY MIGHT BE. YET THOUGH HIS
MOOD IS GRIM, STILL HE IS GLAD THERE
HAS BEEN ENDING...

...AND SOMEDAY, HE KNOWS. PERHAPS SOMEDAY SOON
...HE TOO WILL JOIN HIS FRIENDS IN SONG.

FINI

BEGINNING:
A NEW SERIES OF
UNDERSEA ADVENTURES

HE WAS BORN ARTHUR CURRY, HALF-BREED SON OF MAN AND MERMAID, AND ROSE TO BECOME RULER OF THE MIGHTY SEA KINGDOM OF ATLANTIS. EVENTUALLY HE RELINQUISHED THAT THRONE, CHOOSING INSTEAD TO REMAIN THE DAUNTLESS DEFENDER OF ALL THE SEVEN SEAS-- THE VALIANT SUPER-HERO CALLED...

AQUAMAN

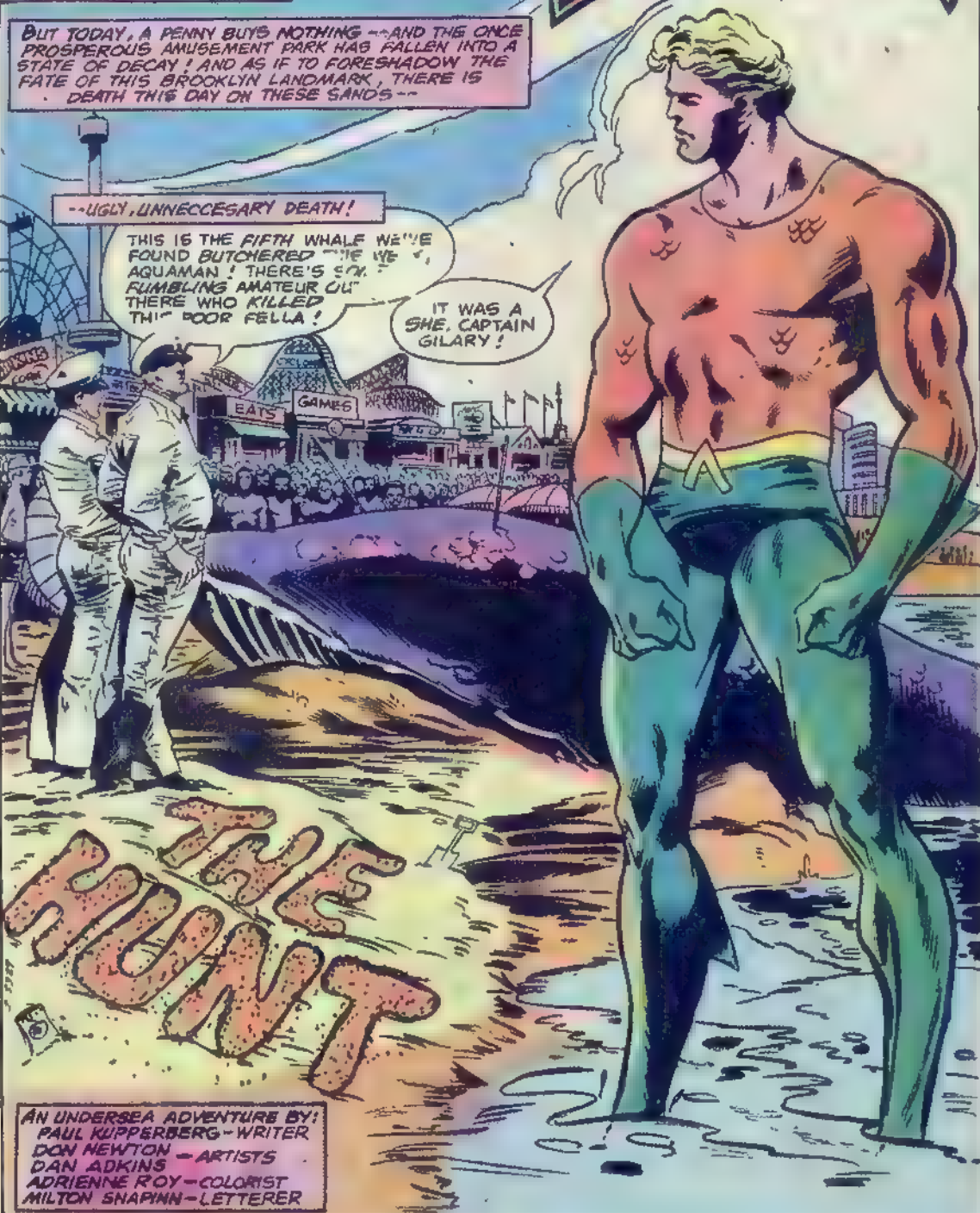
CONEY ISLAND: ONCE IT WAS THE SUMMER RESORT OF NEW YORK--WHERE THOUSANDS OF RICH AND POOR ALIKE GATHERED ON THE BOARDWALK AND BEACHES TO SOAK UP THE SUN AND SPEND THEIR PENNIES AT THE ARCADES.

BUT TODAY, A PENNY BUYS NOTHING--AND THE ONCE PROSPEROUS AMUSEMENT PARK HAS FALLEN INTO A STATE OF DECAY! AND AS IF TO FORESHADOW THE FATE OF THIS BROOKLYN LANDMARK, THERE IS DEATH THIS DAY ON THESE SANDS--

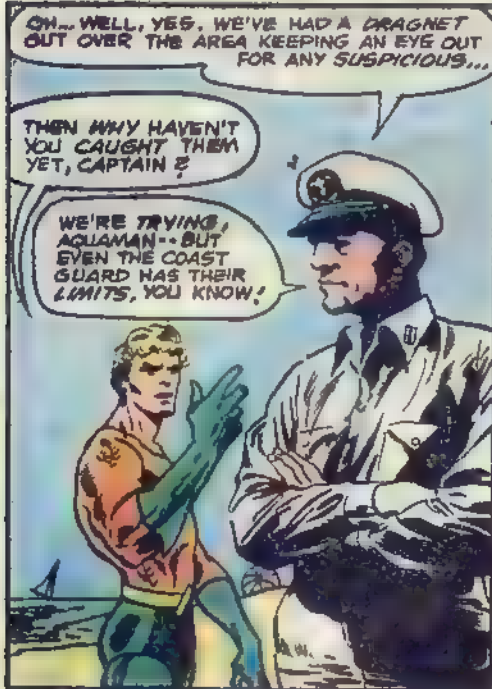
--UGLY, UNNECESSARY DEATH!

THIS IS THE FIFTH WHALE WE'VE FOUND BUTCHERED--IF WE
AQUAMAN! THERE'S SOMETHING
FUMBLING AMATEUR OUT
THERE WHO KILLED
THAT POOR FELLA!

IT WAS A
SHE, CAPTAIN
GILARY!



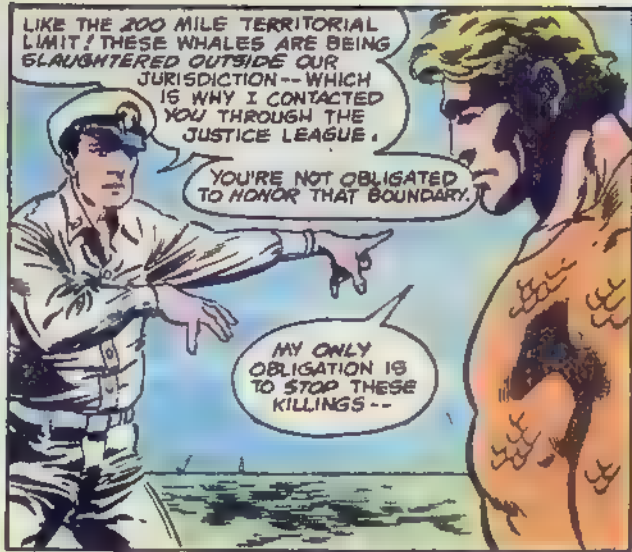
AN UNDERSEA ADVENTURE BY:
PAUL KUPPERBERG--WRITER
DON NEWTON--ARTISTS
DAN ADKINS
ADRIENNE ROY--COLORIST
MILTON SHAPIRO--LETTERER



OH... WELL, YES, WE'VE HAD A DRAGNET
OUT OVER THE AREA KEEPING AN EYE OUT
FOR ANY SUSPICIOUS...

THEN WHY HAVEN'T
YOU CAUGHT THEM
YET, CAPTAIN?

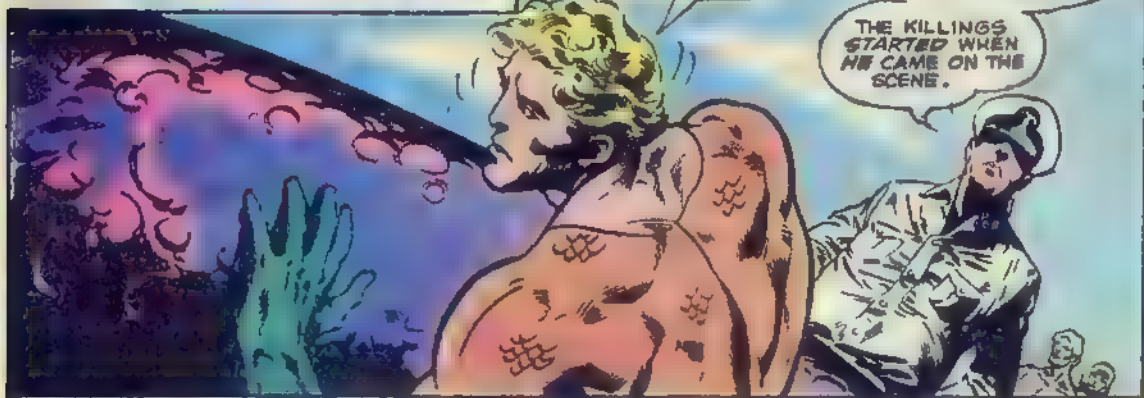
WE'RE TRYING,
AQUAMAN-- BUT
EVEN THE COAST
GUARD HAS THEIR
LIMITS, YOU KNOW!



LIKE THE 200 MILE TERRITORIAL
LIMIT! THESE WHALES ARE BEING
SLAUGHTERED OUTSIDE OUR
JURISDICTION-- WHICH
IS WHY I CONTACTED
YOU THROUGH THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE.

YOU'RE NOT OBLIGATED
TO HONOR THAT BOUNDARY.

MY ONLY
OBLIGATION IS TO STOP THESE
KILLINGS --

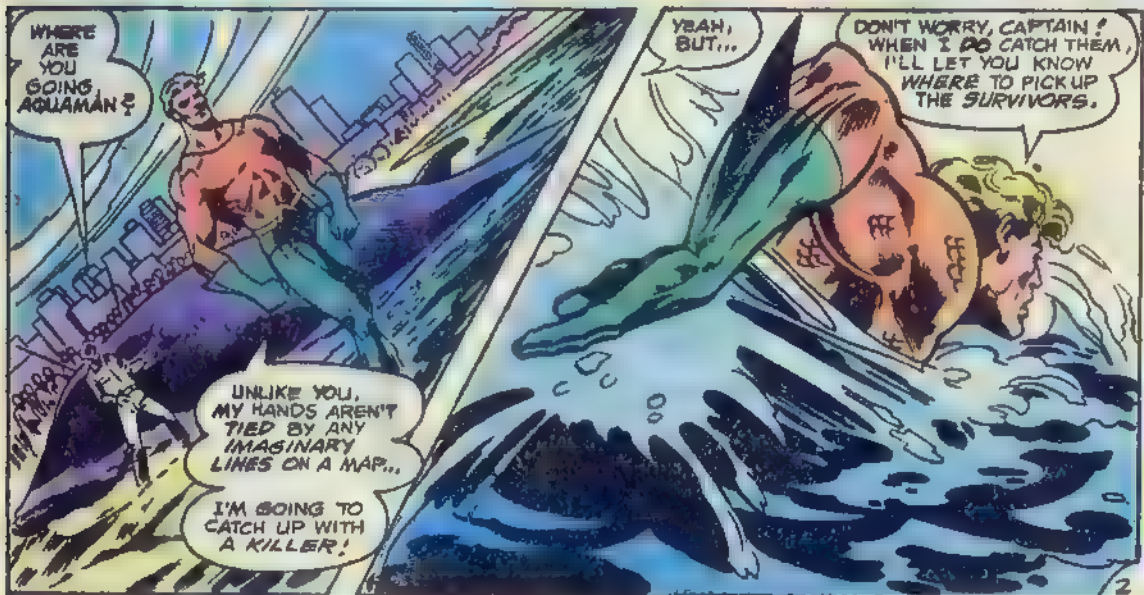


--AND I DON'T CARE WHERE I
HAVE TO GO TO DO IT!

NOW, WHAT HAVE
YOU GOT FOR ME?

WE'VE BEEN KEEPING
AN EYE ON A YACHT
REGISTERED TO A COLIN
LANDAU-- A MILLIONAIRE
BIG GAME HUNTER
FROM ENGLAND.

THE KILLINGS
STARTED WHEN
HE CAME ON THE
SCENE.



WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING
AQUAMAN?

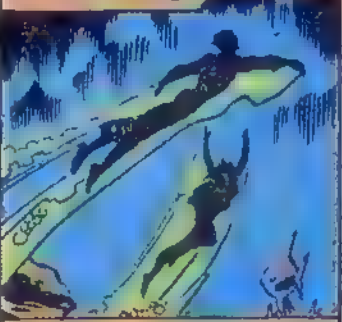
UNLIKE YOU,
MY HANDS AREN'T
TIED BY ANY
IMAGINARY
LINES ON A MAP...

I'M GOING TO
CATCH UP WITH
A KILLER!

YEAH,
BUT...

DON'T WORRY, CAPTAIN!
WHEN I DO CATCH THEM,
I'LL LET YOU KNOW
WHERE TO PICKUP
THE SURVIVORS.

THE DAY BEGAN AS A HOLIDAY,
AND UNTIL THE CALL FROM THE
COAST GUARD, THEY WERE MERELY
MAN AND WIFE FAR FROM HOME
AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES
OF HIS POWERS.



IT WAS TO HAVE BEEN TIME
SPENT REBUILDING A SHATTERED
RELATIONSHIP--

--BUT THOUGH HE NO LONGER
SITS UPON A THRONE, AQUA-
MAN IS STILL KING OF THE
SEAS AND ITS INHABITANTS
ARE HIS SUBJECTS!



AND AS THEIR
KING IT IS
HIS DUTY TO
PROTECT THEM...
OR FAILING
THAT--

--AVENGE THEIR DEATHS!



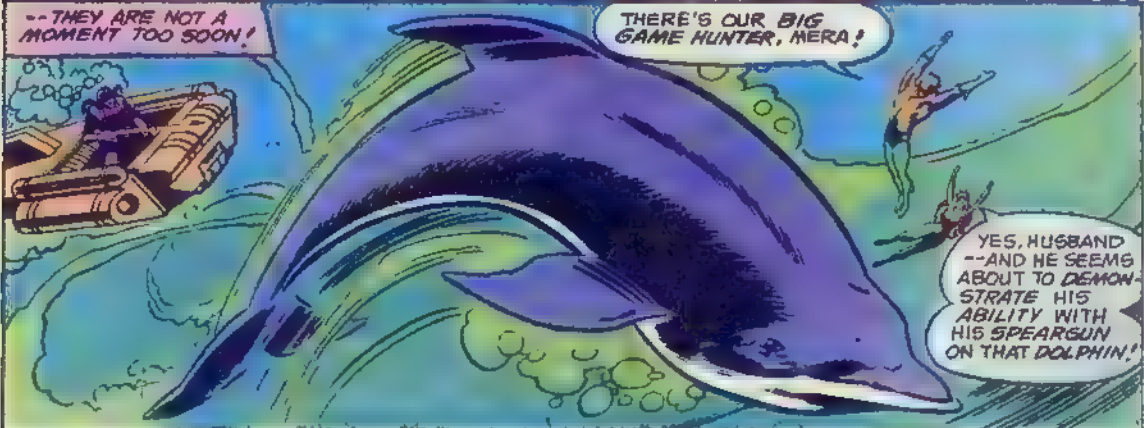
GREAT
NEPTUNE!

SWIMMING FASTER THAN ANY SHIP,
THEY REACH THEIR DESTINATION...
AND ONE THING IS CERTAIN--

--THEY ARE NOT A
MOMENT TOO SOON!

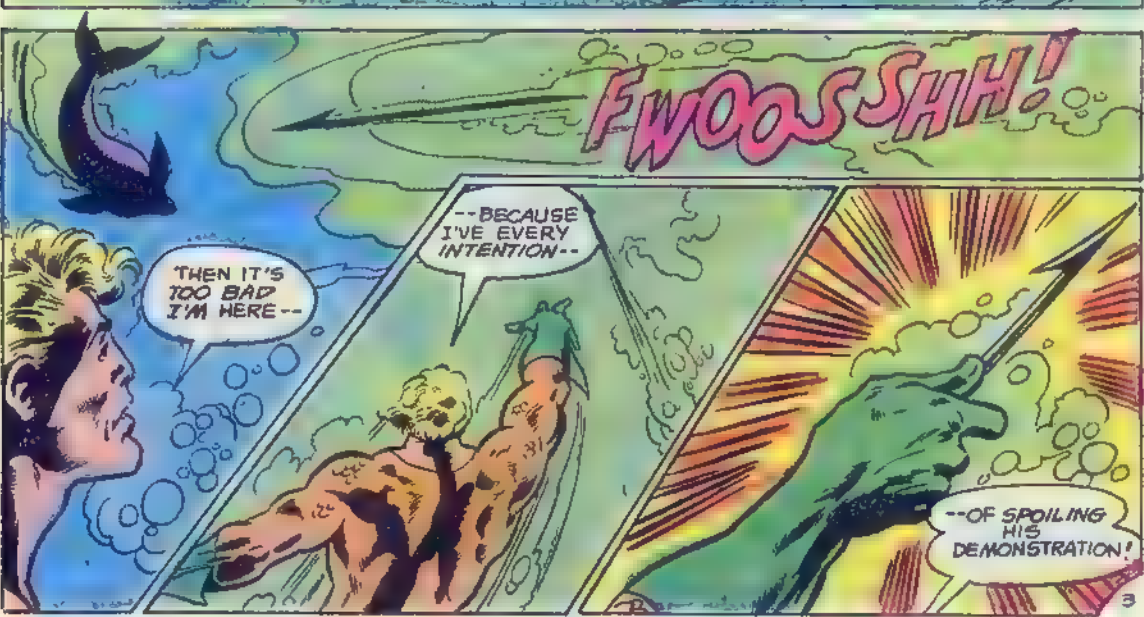


THERE'S OUR BIG
GAME HUNTER, MERA!



YES, HUSBAND
--AND HE SEEMS
ABOUT TO DEMON-
STRATE HIS
ABILITY WITH
HIS SPEARGUN
ON THAT DOLPHIN!

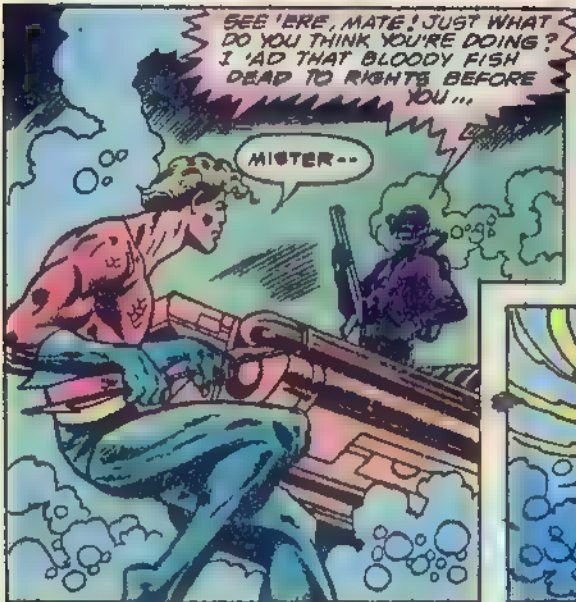
FWOOSH!



THEN IT'S
TOO BAD
I'M HERE--

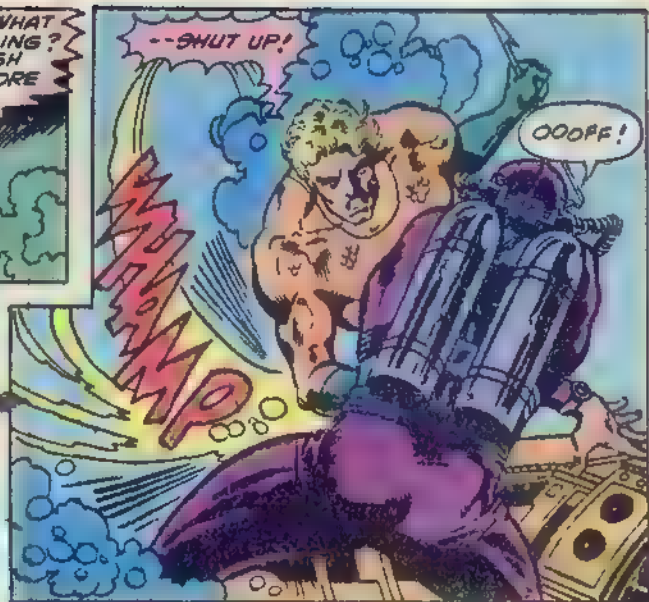
--BECAUSE
I'VE EVERY
INTENTION--

--OF SPOILING
HIS
DEMONSTRATION!



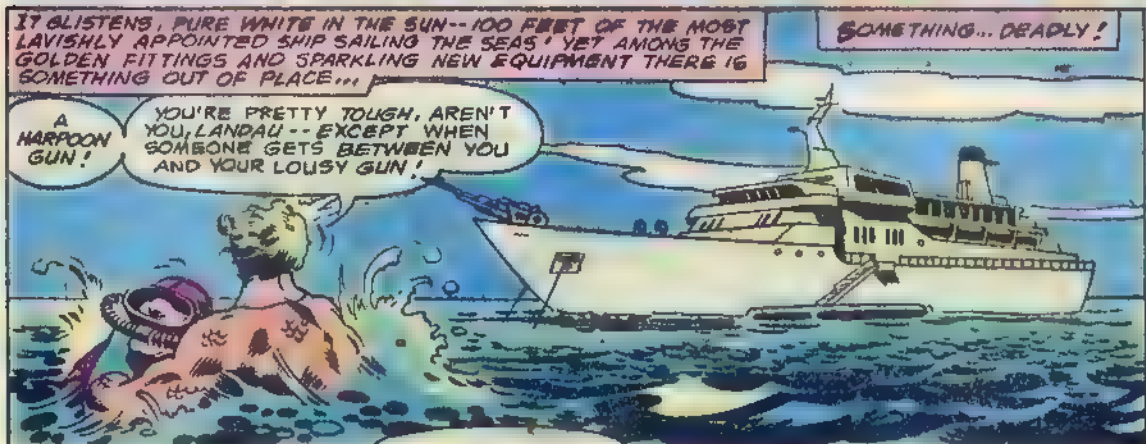
SEE 'ERE, MATE! JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? I 'AD THAT BLOODY FISH DEAD TO RIGHTS BEFORE YOU...

MISTER--



--SHUT UP!

OOOFF!

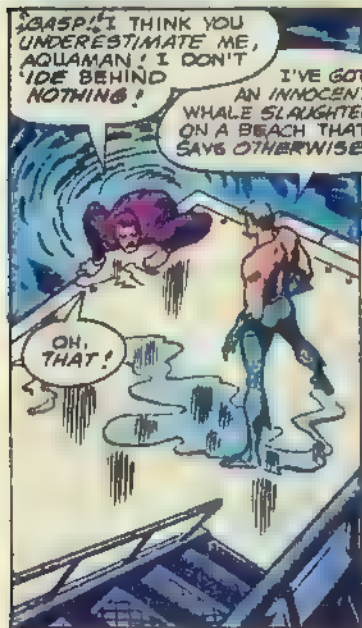


IT GLISTENS, PURE WHITE IN THE SUN--100 FEET OF THE MOST LAVISHLY APPOINTED SHIP SAILING THE SEAS! YET AMONG THE GOLDEN FITTINGS AND SPARKLING NEW EQUIPMENT THERE IS SOMETHING OUT OF PLACE...

SOMETHING... DEADLY!

A HARPOON GUN!

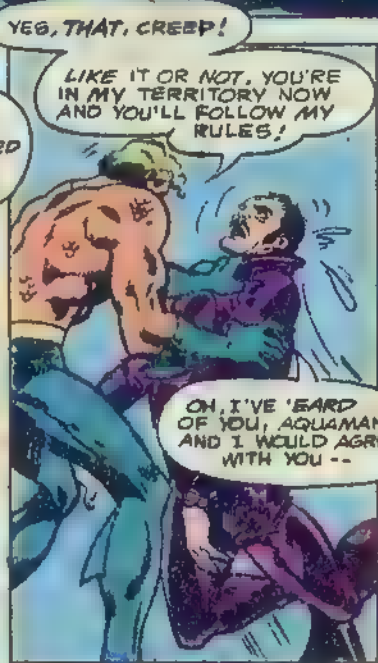
YOU'RE PRETTY TOUGH, AREN'T YOU, LANDAU-- EXCEPT WHEN SOMEONE GETS BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR LOUSY GUN!



GASP! I THINK YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME, AQUAMAN! I DON'T 'IDE BEHIND NOTHING!

I'VE GOT AN INNOCENT WHALE SLAUGHTERED ON A BEACH THAT SAYS OTHERWISE!

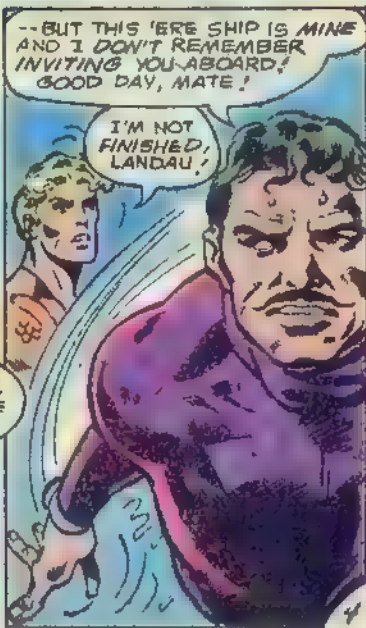
OH, THAT!



YES, THAT, CREEP!

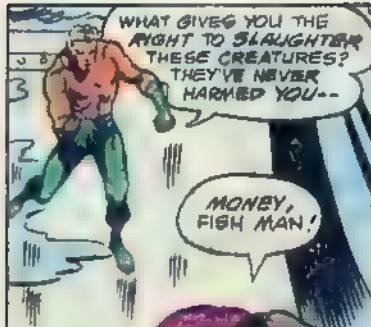
LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU'RE IN MY TERRITORY NOW AND YOU'LL FOLLOW MY RULES!

OH, I'VE 'EARD OF YOU, AQUAMAN... AND I WOULD AGREE WITH YOU --



--BUT THIS 'ERE SHIP IS MINE AND I DON'T REMEMBER INVITING YOU-ABOARD! GOOD DAY, MATE!

I'M NOT FINISHED, LANDAU!

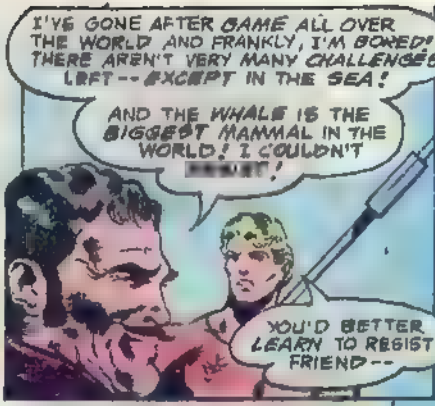


WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO SLAUGHTER THESE CREATURES? THEY'VE NEVER HARMED YOU--

MONEY, FISH MAN!



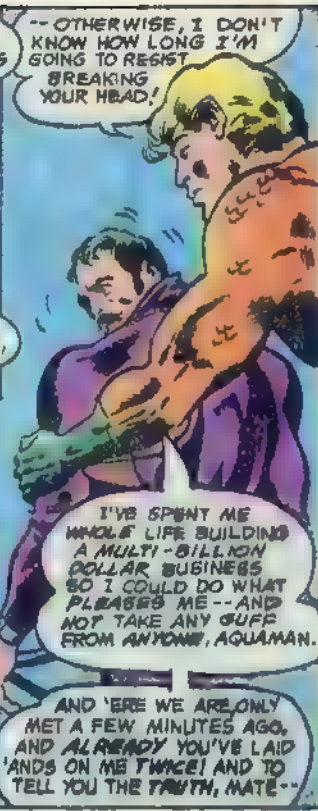
I'VE BEEN 'UNTING SINCE I WAS A TYKE-- I NEVER NEEDED PERMISSION BECAUSE I NEVER ASKED! AND I AIN'T ABOUT TO START NOW!



I'VE GONE AFTER GANE ALL OVER THE WORLD AND FRANKLY, I'M BORED! THERE AREN'T VERY MANY CHALLENGES LEFT-- EXCEPT IN THE SEA!

AND THE WHALE IS THE BIGGEST MAMMAL IN THE WORLD! I COULDN'T RESIST!

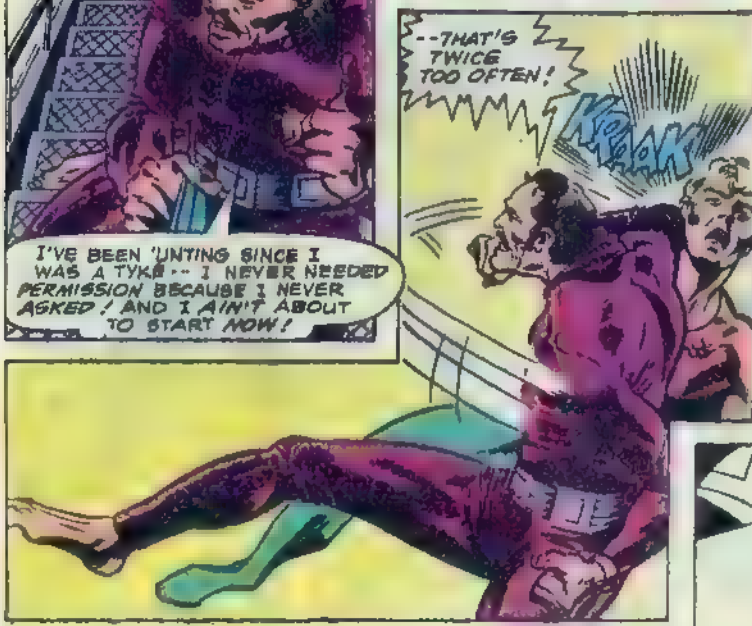
YOU'D BETTER LEARN TO RESIST, FRIEND--



-- OTHERWISE, I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'M GOING TO RESIST BREAKING YOUR HEAD!

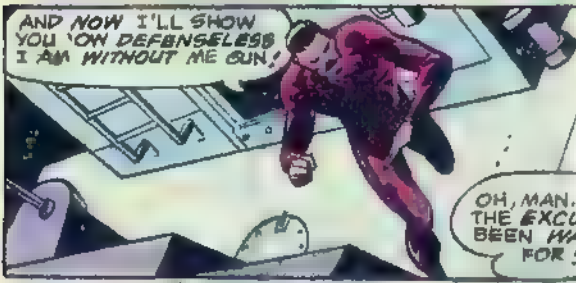
I'VE SPENT ME WHOLE LIFE BUILDING A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS SO I COULD DO WHAT PLEASES ME-- AND NOT TAKE ANY GUFF FROM ANYONE, AQUAMAN.

AND 'ERE WE ARE ONLY MET A FEW MINUTES AGO, AND ALREADY YOU'VE LAID 'ANDS ON ME TWICE! AND TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, MATE--

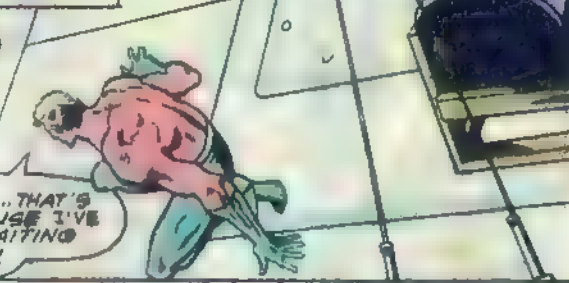


--THAT'S TWICE TOO OFTEN!

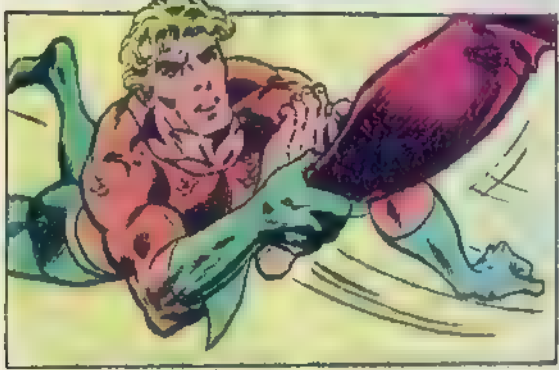
KRAK



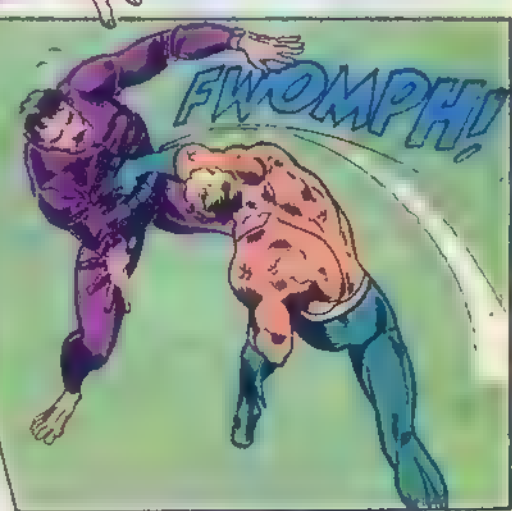
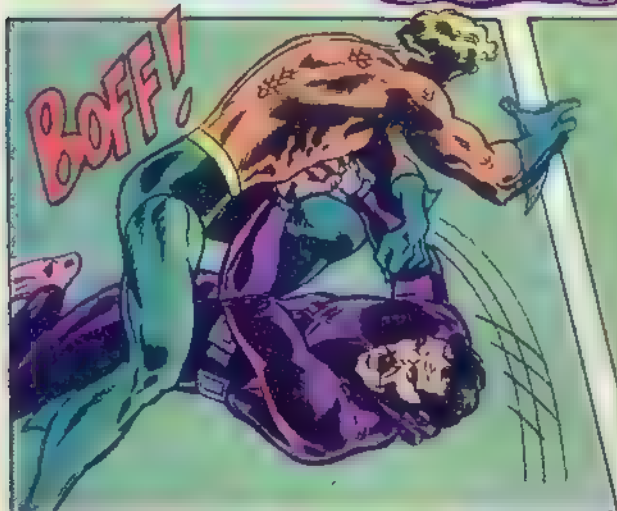
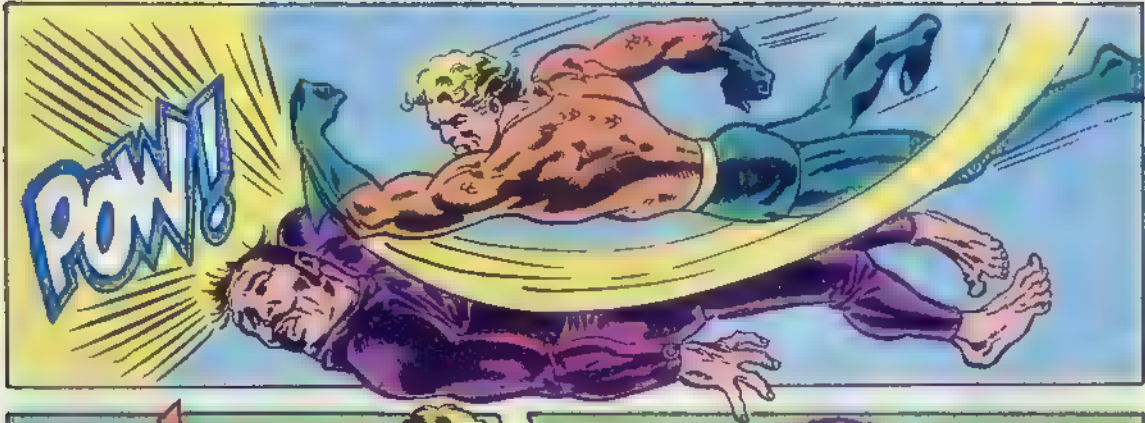
AND NOW I'LL SHOW YOU 'OW DEFENSELESS I AM WITHOUT ME GUN!



OH, MAN... THAT'S THE EXCUSE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

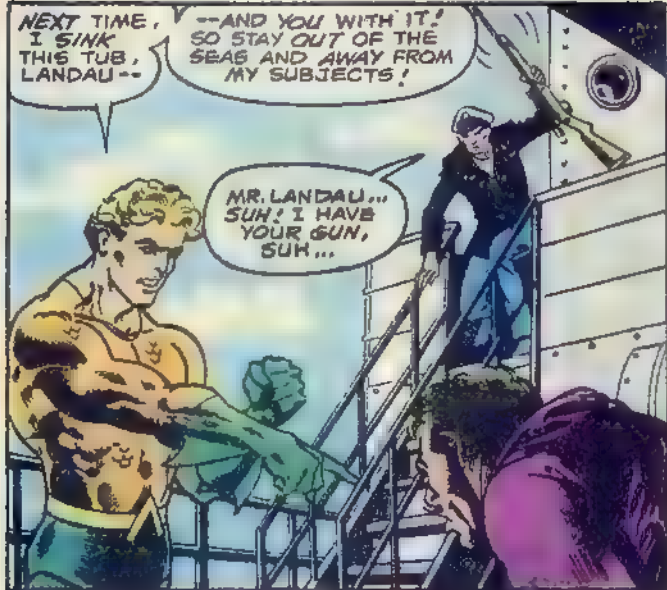


THUMP



HIS BROW WRINKLED WITH CONCENTRATION, THE SEA KING SENDS FORTH POWERFUL WAVES OF TELEPATHIC COMMAND --

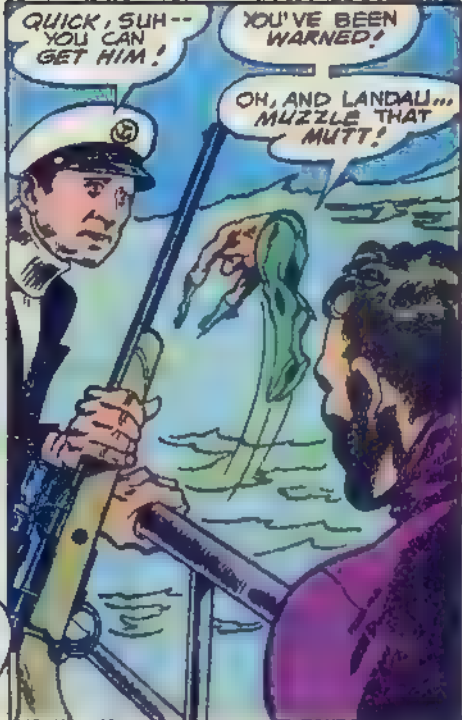
AND THE CREATURES RESPONDING TO THIS CALL ARE PARTICULARLY IRONIC --



NEXT TIME,
I SINK
THIS TUB,
LANDAU--

--AND YOU WITH IT!
SO STAY OUT OF THE
SEAS AND AWAY FROM
MY SUBJECTS!

MR. LANDAU...
SUH! I HAVE
YOUR GUN,
SUH...



QUICK, SUH--
YOU CAN
GET HIM!

YOU'VE BEEN
WARNED!

OH, AND LANDAU...
MUZZLE THAT
MUTT!



B-BUT
HE'S
GETTING
AWAY!
JUST
ONE
BULLET
AND...

I DIDN'T GET ME
REPUTATION BY
SHOOTING ANYONE
--MAN OR BEAST--
IN THE BACK!
AND THE BLOKE'S
RIGHT--

--BUTTON
YOUR YAP!

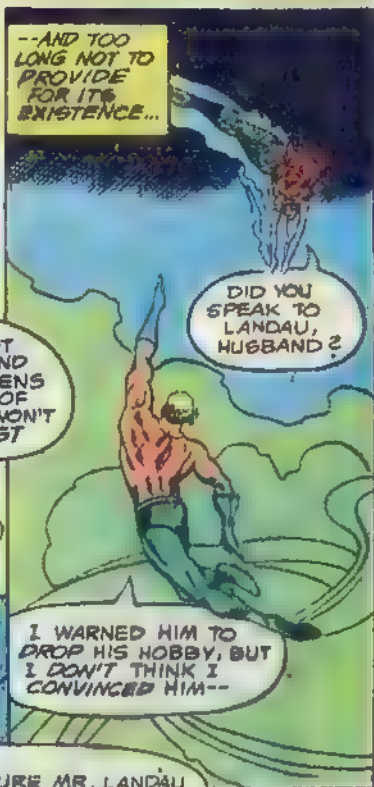


'E MAY BE SOME KIND
OF KING OF THE OCEAN--
BUT NOT EVEN A KING
ORDERS COLIN LANDAU
AROUND!

I INTEND TO GET
ME A WHALE--AND
IF AQUAMAN APPENS
TO GET IN FRONT OF
ME GUNSHOT I WON'T
ESITATE TO BLAST
'IM--

--BUT ONLY
THEN!

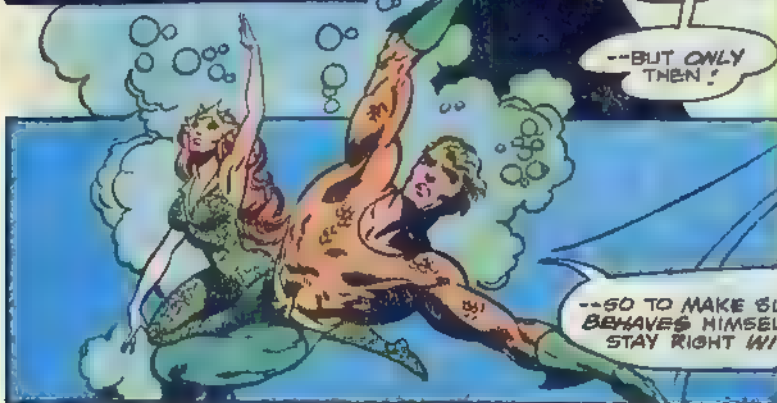
ALTHOUGH AQUAMAN DOES NOT
HEAR THIS GRIM PROMISE, HE'S
BEEN A HERO TOO LONG NOT TO
KNOW THAT IT HAS BEEN MADE--



--AND TOO
LONG NOT TO
PROVIDE
FOR ITS
EXISTENCE...

DID YOU
SPEAK TO
LANDAU,
HUSBAND?

I WARNED HIM TO
DROP HIS HOBBY, BUT
I DON'T THINK I
CONVINCED HIM--



--SO TO MAKE SURE MR. LANDAU
BEHAVES HIMSELF, I INTEND TO
STAY RIGHT WITH HIM--

"--ALL NIGHT IF NECESSARY!"

LOOK... A HELICOPTER!
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE
LANDAU IS UP TO?

I DON'T KNOW
FOR SURE--BUT I
CAN GUESS... AND I
DON'T LIKE IT!

MERA--LISTEN...
THE SHIP'S ENGINES
ARE STARTING!



FOLLOWING IN THE SHIP'S WAKE, AQUAMAN AND
MERA EASILY PACE THE YACHT'S SPEED--

--AND COME TO
FRIGHTENING
CONCLUSION...

THAT BOAT'S
EQUIPPED WITH
SONAR TO
TRACK THEM!

WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO DO,
HUSBAND?

JUST WHAT'S
EXPECTED OF
ME, MERA...!

GREAT NEPTUNE!
THE WAY HE KEEPS
CHANGING COURSE,
IT'S LIKE HE'S
TRACKING SOME-
THING MOVING
ERRATICALLY
THROUGH THE
WATER-- LIKE...

LIKE A WHALE, HUSBAND?

AS SILENT AS
AN EEL KNIFING
THROUGH CRYSTAL-
CLEAR WATERS,
THE DETERMINED
SEA KING
SOFTLY BOARDS
THE LUXURIOUS
YACHT--

--AND ONCE ON BOARD, WITH
NO HINT OF THE SEETHING
ANGER WITHIN HIM SHOWING
ON HIS FACE--

--HE DOES JUST WHAT IS
EXPECTED OF HIM!

KRATHWANGGG!

THAT TAKES CARE
OF LANDAU'S POP
GUN! HE WON'T BE
USING IT TO KILL
ANYMORE!

SO FAR, SO GOOD!
NOBODY HEARD ME
SMASH THE HARPOON-
GUN OVER THE NOISE
OF THE ENGINE!

BUT MEN LIKE
LANDAU DON'T GO
HUNTING WITH ONLY
ONE WEAPON--AND
I HAVEN'T TIME TO
SEARCH THE WHOLE
SHIP FOR THEM.

SO IF I WRECK
THEIR SONAR, LANDAU
WON'T BE ABLE TO
TRACK ANY MORE
WHALES...

GOING
SOMEWHERE,
PAL?

HUH!?
WHO...?

YOU MEAN THE BOSS FLEW ALL OF US IN BY
CHOPPER JUST TA TAKE CARE OF A RUNT
LIKE YOUSE!?

MR. LANDAU MUST'VE
HAD HIS REASONS!

IF YOU TRY
ANYTHING
WITH ME,
YOU'LL SEE
WHAT LANDAU'S
REASON IS!

NOW, OUT
OF MY
WAY!

DON'T HE TALK
TOUGH!

AQUAMAN SAYS NO MORE, FOR
WORDS WOULD BE BUT A WASTE
OF ENERGY NOW! HE SAID WHAT
HE MUST--

--AND MUST NOW PROVE
HIS RIGHT TO SPEAK--

BUT FOR MUSCLES WHICH HAVE WITHSTOOD
THOUSANDS OF POUNDS OF PRESSURE AT THE
OCEAN FLOOR, THIS IS BUT AN EXERCISE--

--AND NOT A VERY
DIFFICULT ONE AT
THAT!



AND EVEN AS AQUAMAN FINISHES WITH
THIS BATTLE--

--COLIN LANDAU IS LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR YET ANOTHER FIGHT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SHIP...

--EXCEPT I GOT A DATE WITH A WHALE!

IT'S TOO QUIET! THE NOISE OF THE FIGHT SHOULD'VE BROUGHT LANDAU RUNNING!

AND THE FACT THAT IT DIDN'T MEANS HE'S EITHER BUSY ELSEWHERE ON THE YACHT--

THE 'RED 'ELP OUGHT TO KEEP AQUAMAN BUSY IF HE STICKS 'IS NOSE IN ME BUSINESS AGAIN! I'D TAKE CARE OF 'IM MYSELF--



--OR HE'S NO LONGER ABOARD!

AQUAMAN? S-BUT I SAW THOSE BRUISERS PILE ON TOP OF YOU--

I'VE HAD BUILDINGS FALL ON ME, MUTT-- THOSE GUYS WERE A JOKE!

BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME! LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR MASTER--

--WHERE'S LANDAU?

G-GONE, AQUAMAN... SUM!

I DON'T LIKE ASKING QUESTIONS, CREEP, SO TELL THE WHOLE STORY --AND DON'T LEAVE OUT ANY DETAILS!

ULP! S-SONAR PICKED UP A N-HERD OF WHALES HALF MILE SOUTH OF HERE, AND MR. L-LANDAU WENT TO G-GET ONE...

THAT LOUSY--I TOLD HIM TO STAY AWAY FROM THOSE WHALES--AND ONE WARNING IS ALL I GIVE!

AND YOU--YOU TAKE THIS SHIP TO THE NEAREST U.S. PORT AND SURRENDER YOURSELF TO THE AUTHORITIES!

I'M THINKING OF MAKING HIM SWIM THE 200 MILES TO THE U.S.--

BUT WHAT ABOUT MR. LANDAU...?

--PROVIDED HE'S STILL IN ANY CONDITION TO SWIM!

IT TAKES AQUAMAN BUT A MINUTE TO SWIM THE HALF MILE TO LANDAU... A FEAT THE HUNTER WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY FIND FASCINATING --

--WERE HE NOT OTHERWISE OCCUPIED BY HIS OWN ACCOMPLISHMENTS...

A BLOODY MAGNIFICENT SPECIMEN! 'E'D LOOK SMASHING IN ME TROPHY ROOM!

SPIRITED CHAP, AIN'T YOU? BUT IF YOU WANT TO CHASE ME, THAT'S FINE--

BUT TO BUSINESS! THE STING BEAM IN ME SPECIALLY-BUILT EXO-SKELETON IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO CAUSE YOU SOME PAIN. 'EY, MATE?

BUT AS A MATADOR DOES WITH 'IS BULL, I'VE GOT TO TIRE YOU OUT BEFORE THE KILL!

SHIEERK!

--BECAUSE ME SLED CAN EASILY OUTRUN YOU!

-- BUT I CAN RUN CIRCLES AROUND THAT PILE OF SCRAP!

TRUE, LANDAU--

BLOOM!

AQUAM--
OOOFFFF!

VERY GOOD! I NEVER SPOTTED YOU COMING-- ALTHOUGH YOU SHOULD 'AVE STAYED AWAY! ME EXO-SKELETON INCREASES ME STRENGTH TWENTY-FOLD-- WHICH TILTS THE ODDS IN THIS FIGHT TO MY SIDE!

I'M GLAD YOU'RE RICH, LANDAU-- YOU CAN AFFORD TO LOSE THAT BET!

BUT I AIN'T
GOING TO LOSE
IT, MATE--

--IN FACT, I'VE
ALREADY WON IT!

LANDAU,
WATCH...!

STOW IT,
MATE! THAT
NET'S MADE
OF STEEL--

UGH!

THUNK

FWAT

HOOW!

--AND YOU'LL
NEVER GET
LOOOOOFF!
ARRRGHH!

LORD
HELP
ME--?--I'M
CAUGHT!
I'M BEING
DRAGGED
DOWN--AND
MY AIR IS...

LANDAU!

HELP ME,
AQUAMAN!
HELP!

THOUGH PREVENTED
FROM SAVING LANDAU,
AQUAMAN IS NOT
HELPLESS IN THIS
SITUATION --

--FOR HE STILL HAS HIS
TELEPATHIC POWERS OVER
THE CREATURES OF THE
SEA...

GOR! THAT
BLOODY WHALE
IS COMING
AFTER
ME-- TRYING TO
KILL ME!

AND IT IS NOT HIS FAULT
THAT HIS GOOD INTENTIONS--

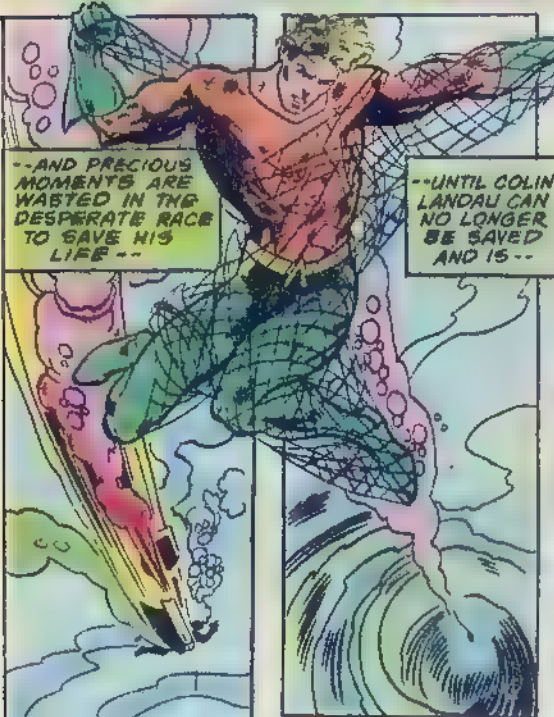
--ARE SO MISUNDERSTOOD
BY THE MAN HE TRIES TO
SAVE...

IF I'M GOING TO DIE,
IT AIN'T GOING TO BE
THE LIKES OF YOU
WHAT KILLS ME!

BBZZZZTTT

THOUGH THIS CREATURE WOULD GIVE HIS LIFE FOR THE SEA KING, THE STINGING PAIN FROM LANDAU'S EXO-SKELETON CAUSES HIM TO VEER OFF--

ZZZZZZTTT

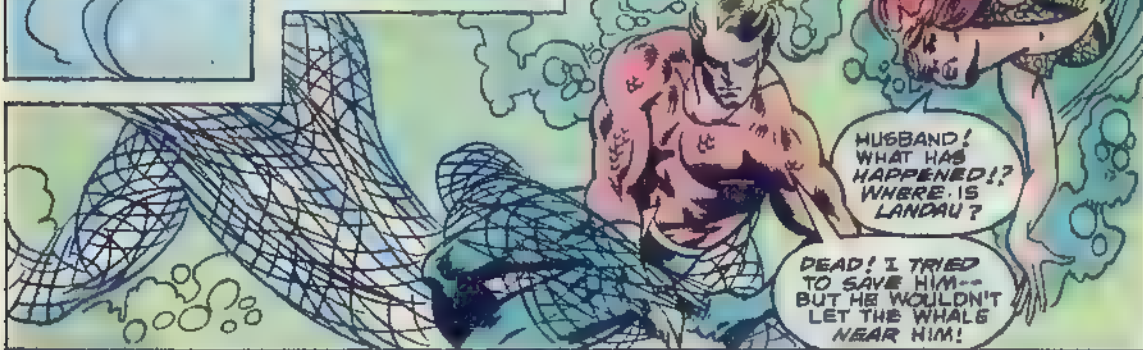


--AND PRECIOUS MOMENTS ARE WASTED IN THE DESPERATE RACE TO SAVE HIS LIFE--

--UNTIL COLIN LANDAU CAN NO LONGER BE SAVED AND IS--

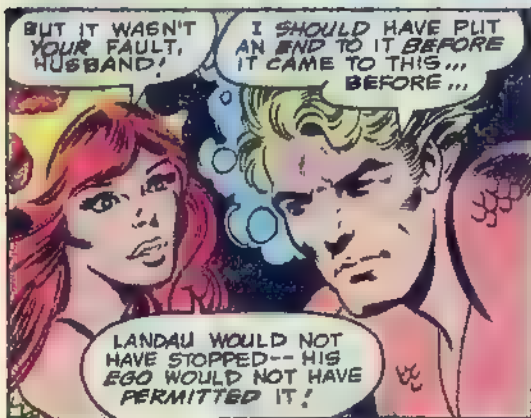


--GONE!



HUSBAND!
WHAT HAS
HAPPENED!?
WHERE IS
LANDAU?

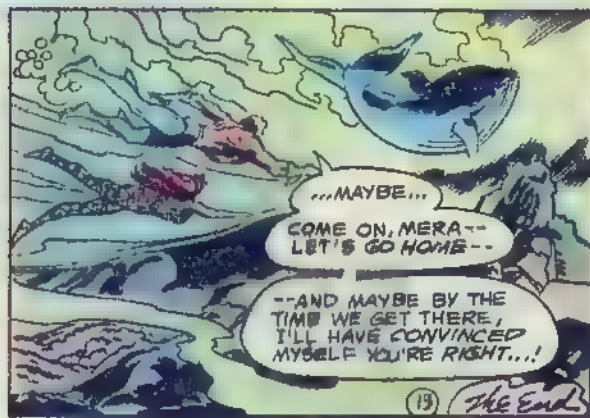
DEAD! I TRIED
TO SAVE HIM--
BUT HE WOULDN'T
LET THE WHALE
NEAR HIM!



BUT IT WASN'T
YOUR FAULT,
HUSBAND!

I SHOULD HAVE PUT
AN END TO IT BEFORE
IT CAME TO THIS...
BEFORE...

LANDAU WOULD NOT
HAVE STOPPED-- HIS
EGO WOULD NOT HAVE
PERMITTED IT!



...MAYBE...

COME ON, MERA--
LET'S GO HOME--

--AND MAYBE BY THE
TIME WE GET THERE,
I'LL HAVE CONVINCED
MYSELF YOU'RE RIGHT...!

(19) *The End*

HAL JORDAN--A FEARLESS EARTHMAN CHOSEN BY A DYING ALIEN TO BE HIS SUCCESSOR IN THE UNIVERSE'S MOST ELITE ORGANIZATION WIELDING THE AWESOME ENERGIES OF THE POWER RINGS, HE DONNED THE EMERALD UNIFORM OF THE COSMOS-SPANNING CORPS OF CRUSADERS AND BECAME FIRST AMONG EQUALS--THE GREATEST HERO EVER TO BE CALLED...

DEEP SPACE... WHERE GREEN LANTERN IS INVOLVED IN A MOST UNUSUAL CHORE...

GREEN LANTERN

GOOD! JUST ABOUT GOT MY RIG PUT BACK TOGETHER! I DON'T NORMALLY USE MY RING FOR PERSONAL GAIN... BUT I HAD TO DESTROY MY TRUCK IN THE LINE OF DUTY!"

IF I HADN'T DETONATED THE EXPLOSIVES I WAS CARRYING IN IT, I COULDN'T HAVE ESCAPED THE ENERGY LEECHES!

*LAST ISSUE--PAUL

DEADLY SONG OF THE WIZARD!

AN ADVENTURE IN OUTER-SPACE BY:
CARY BURKETT & JOE STATON
STORYTELLERS

KARIN
LETTERER

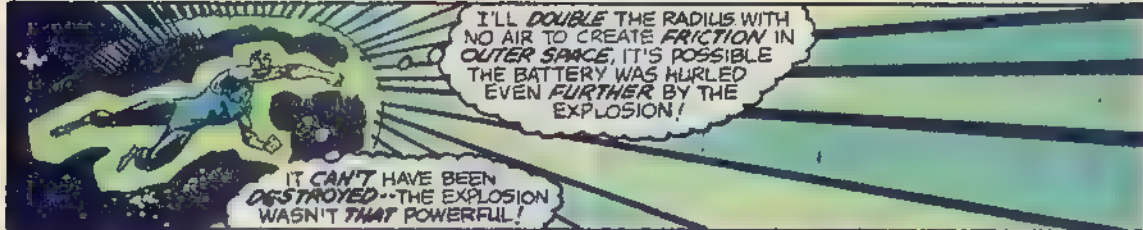
ADRIENNE ROY
COLORIST

"WHWEE!" THAT TOOK SOME CONCENTRATION! AS SOON AS I GET MY CARGO DELIVERED, I'M HITTING THE SACK... HARD!

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO PULL IN MY POWER BATTERY FROM WHEREVER THE EXPLOSION FLUNG IT...

...HUH? TH-THIS IS CRAZY! I'M NOT EVEN MAKING CONTACT WITH THE BATTERY!

BUT MY BEAM IS COVERING A RADIUS OF A THOUSAND MILES!



I'LL DOUBLE THE RADIUS WITH NO AIR TO CREATE FRICTION IN OUTER SPACE, IT'S POSSIBLE THE BATTERY WAS HURLED EVEN FURTHER BY THE EXPLOSION!

IT CAN'T HAVE BEEN DESTROYED--THE EXPLOSION WASN'T THAT POWERFUL!

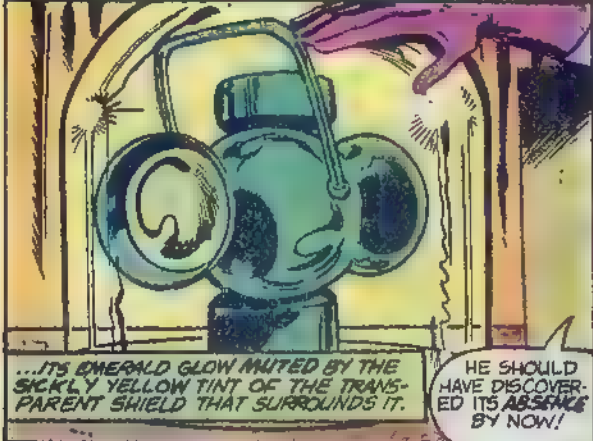


NO GO! SOMETHING'S BLOCKING MY BEAM... PREVENTING ME FROM CONTACTING THE BATTERY!

I'VE GOT ABOUT SIXTEEN HOURS OF POWER LEFT*...WHERE COULD THE BATTERY BE?

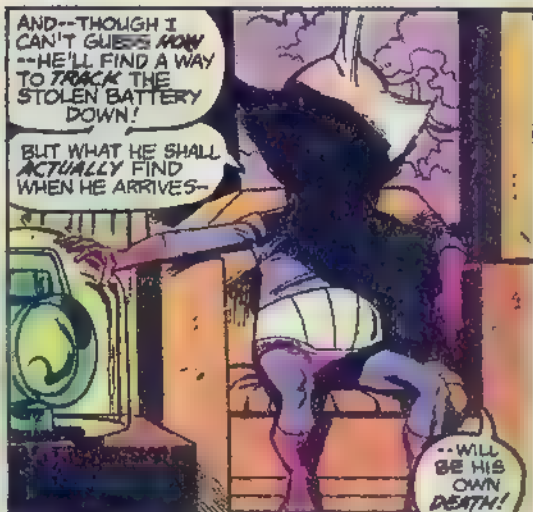
*NOTE: FOR G.L.'S RING TO WORK, HE MUST CHARGE IT AT THE POWER BATTERY EVERY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.-- PAUL.

THE ANSWER IS NOT FAR OFF...FOR ON A SMALL PLANETOID, INSIDE A STONE CASTLE, THE POWER BATTERY RESTS...



...ITS EMERALD GLOW MUTED BY THE SICKLY YELLOW TINT OF THE TRANSPARENT SHIELD THAT SURROUNDS IT.

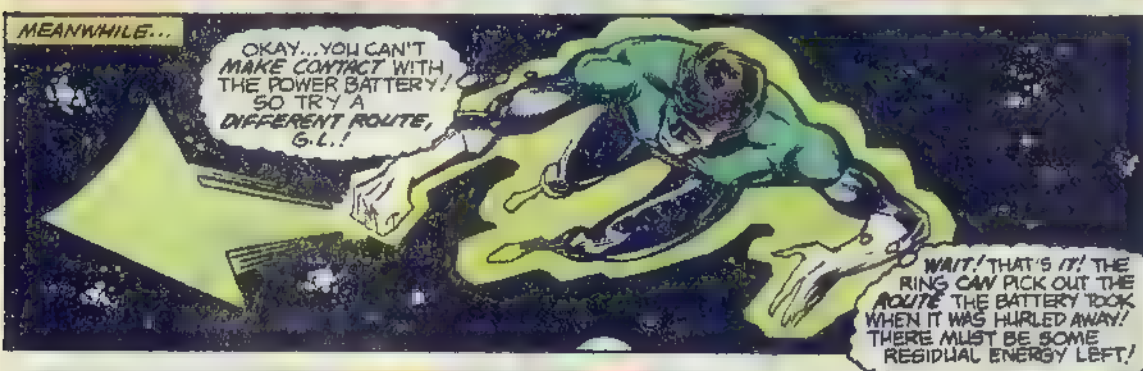
HE SHOULD HAVE DISCOVERED ITS ABSENCE BY NOW!



AND--THOUGH I CAN'T GUESS HOW --HE'LL FIND A WAY TO TRACK THE STOLEN BATTERY DOWN!

BUT WHAT HE SHALL ACTUALLY FIND WHEN HE ARRIVES--

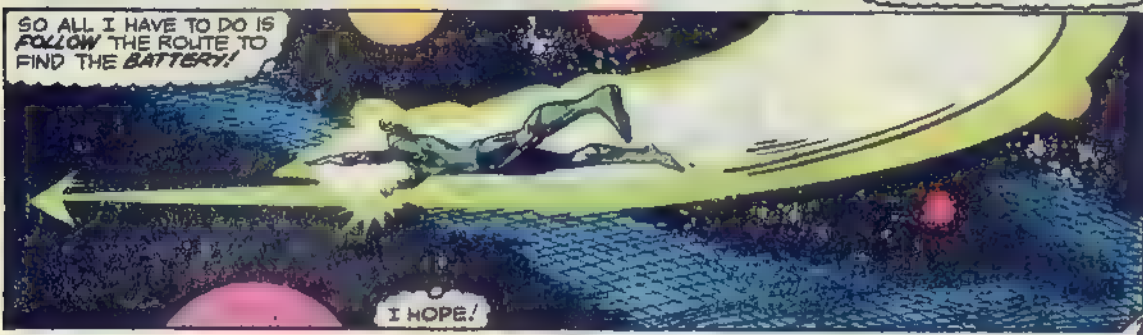
--WILL BE HIS OWN DEATH!



MEANWHILE...

OKAY...YOU CAN'T MAKE CONTACT WITH THE POWER BATTERY! SO TRY A DIFFERENT ROUTE, G.L.!

WAIT! THAT'S IT! THE RING CAN PICK OUT THE ROUTE THE BATTERY TOOK WHEN IT WAS HURLED AWAY! THERE MUST BE SOME RESIDUAL ENERGY LEFT!



SO ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW THE ROUTE TO FIND THE BATTERY!

I HOPE!

SHORTLY...

THERE! MY POWER BATTERY IS ON THAT PLANETOID BELOW!

WHICH LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THE WORST...

... SOMEONE-- OR SOME THING-- IS DELIBERATELY CUTTING ME OFF FROM THE BATTERY... MOST LIKELY TO TAP ITS POWER!

AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'M GOING TO HAVE A FIGHT ON MY HANDS!

ODD... THIS STRANGE MIST SEEMS TO COVER THE ENTIRE PLANETOID!

HE HAS ENTERED THE MIST-- I CAN SENSE IT!

HE CANNOT KNOW THAT I CREATED THE MIST... AND GAVE IT A SPECIAL, UNIQUE QUALITY!

THE QUALITY OF SPEEDING UP THE PASSAGE OF TIME WITHIN IT!

"THE MOMENT HE ENTERED THE MIST, TIME BEGAN PASSING MUCH MORE QUICKLY FOR HIM!"

"...AND HIS RING BEGAN TO DRAW NEAR THE END OF ITS TIME LIMIT AT A GREATLY INCREASED SPEED!"

I HAVE ONLY TO DELAY HIM FOR A SHORT PERIOD, UNTIL HIS RING CEASES FUNCTIONING!

GROUND GROW UP IN SHAPE OF GRYPHON, HILL INTO HAPPY, WITH WINGS TO FLY!

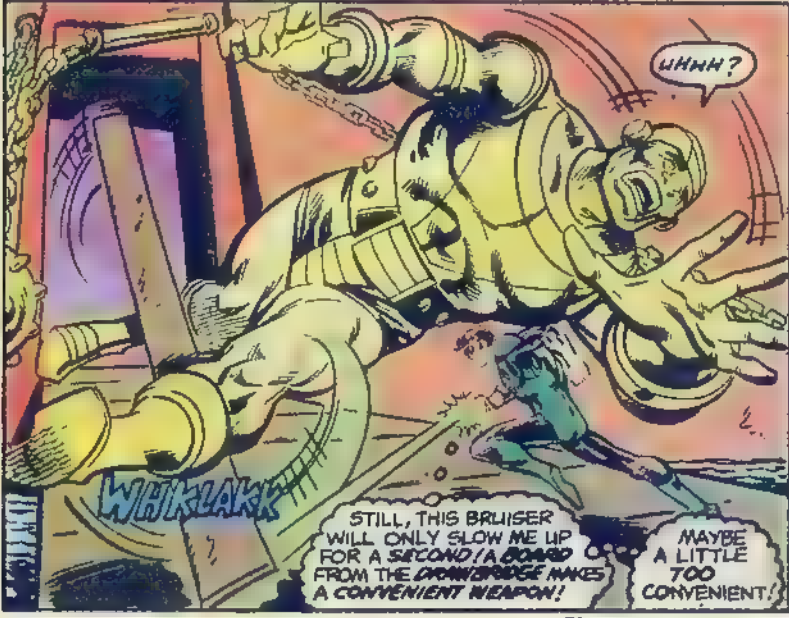
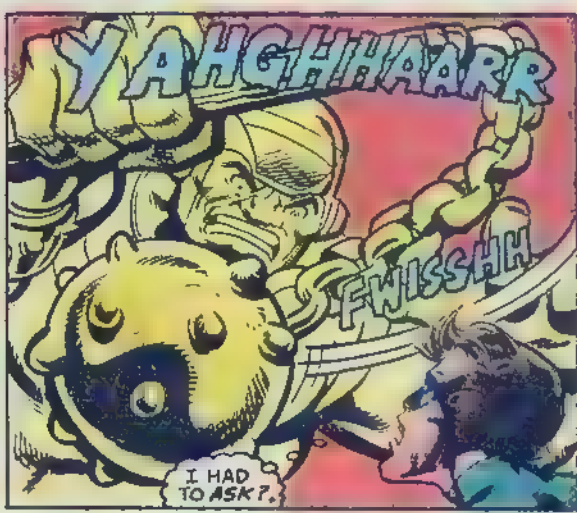
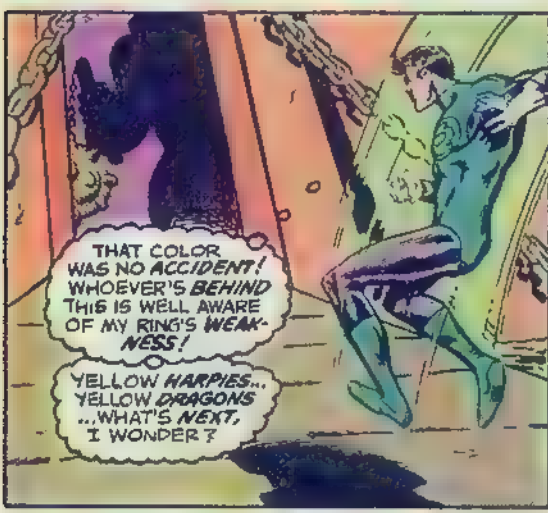
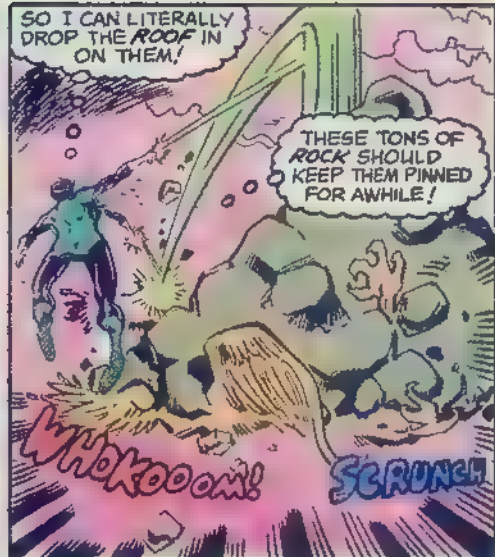
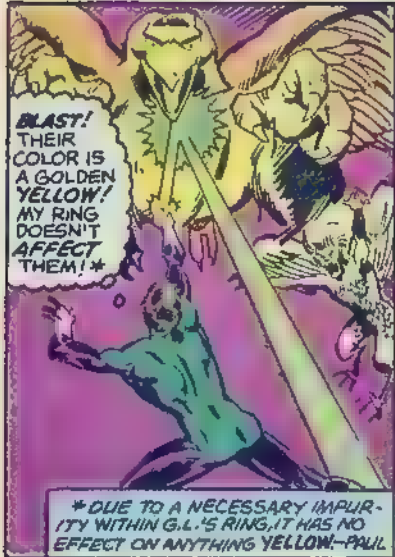
DIRT INTO BONE, NOW YOU STIFFEN--

—ATTACK GREEN LANTERN, MAKE HIM DIE!

GGGHAAAR

HSSSS

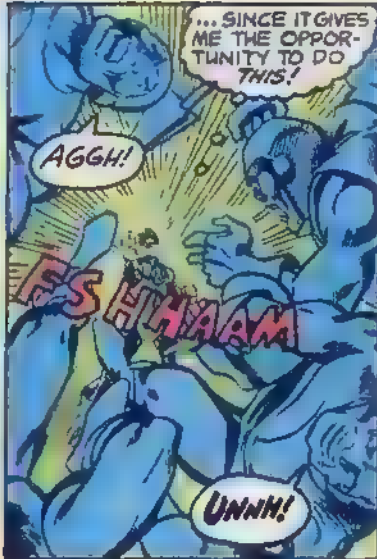
I GUESS THIS PROVES IT -- SOMEONE IS DEFINITELY OUT TO GET ME!





MORE GUARDS... AND MY ENEMY HASN'T EVEN BOTHERED TO HAVE THESE DRESSED UP IN YELLOW!

I SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN I SUPPOSE...

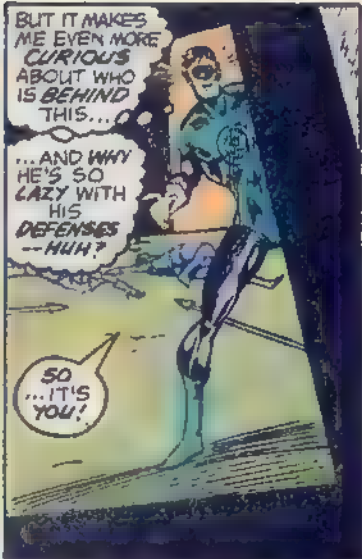


... SINCE IT GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO THIS!

AGGH!

FSHHHAAAM

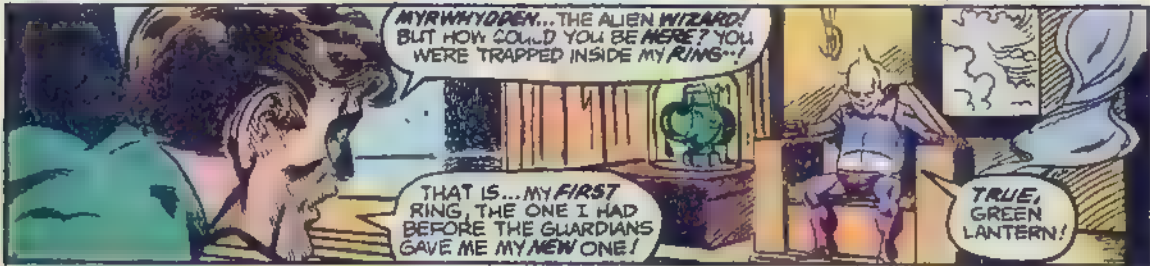
UNNH!



BUT IT MAKES ME EVEN MORE CURIOUS ABOUT WHO IS BEHIND THIS...

... AND WHY HE'S SO LAZY WITH HIS DEFENSES -- HUH?

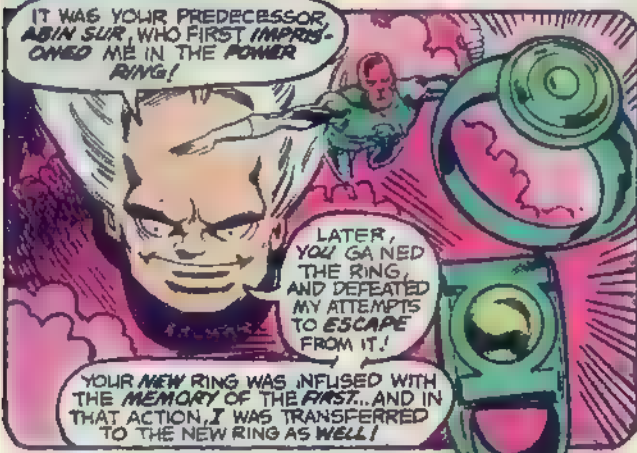
SO ... IT'S YOU!



MYRWHYDEN... THE ALIEN WIZARD! BUT HOW COULD YOU BE HERE? YOU WERE TRAPPED INSIDE MY RING...

THAT IS... MY FIRST RING, THE ONE I HAD BEFORE THE GUARDIANS GAVE ME MY NEW ONE!

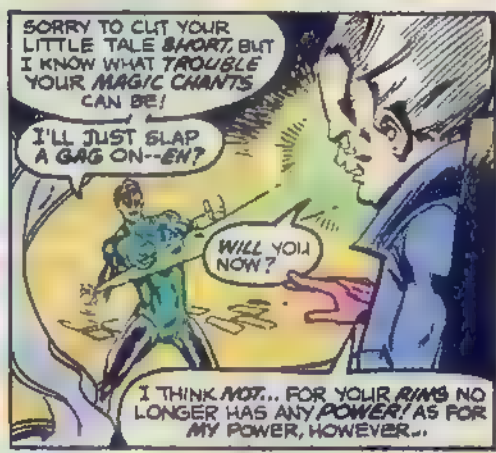
TRUE, GREEN LANTERN!



IT WAS YOUR PREDECESSOR ABIN SUR, WHO FIRST IMPRISONED ME IN THE POWER RING!

LATER, YOU GAINED THE RING AND DEFEATED MY ATTEMPTS TO ESCAPE FROM IT!

YOUR NEW RING WAS INFUSED WITH THE MEMORY OF THE FIRST... AND IN THAT ACTION, I WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE NEW RING AS WELL!

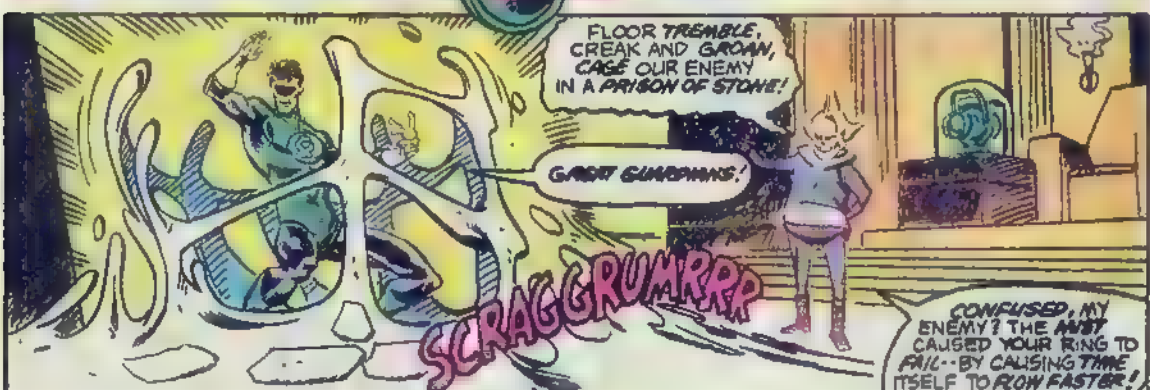


SORRY TO CUT YOUR LITTLE TALE SHORT, BUT I KNOW WHAT TROUBLE YOUR MAGIC CHANTS CAN BE!

I'LL JUST SLAP A GAG ON--EH?

WILL YOU NOW?

I THINK NOT... FOR YOUR RING NO LONGER HAS ANY POWER! AS FOR MY POWER, HOWEVER...



FLOOR TREMBLE, CREAK AND GROAN, CAUSE OUR ENEMY IN A PRISON OF STONE!

GAGG GUARDIANS!

SCRAGGRUMPPP

CONFUSED, MY ENEMY? THE FIRST CAUSED YOUR RING TO FAIL... BY CAUSING TIME ITSELF TO RUN FASTER!

THAT'S WHY I
DELAYED YOU
WITH WORTHLESS
BATTLE! NOW YOUR
RING'S POWER IS
GONE! THE MIN-
UTES YOU LOST
WERE TRULY
HOURS!

BUT YOU ASKED
HOW I CAME TO BE
HERE ..

"UNDERSTAND, I HAVE WASTED NO TIME IN
EFFECTING MY REVENGE! IT WAS MERE
HOURS AGO THAT THE ENERGY LEECHES
ATTACKED YOU.

"WHEN THE
PARASITES
WERE SAPPING
THE ENERGY OF
YOUR RING,
THEY
INADVERTENTLY
DREW ME OUT
AS WELL!

"ONCE FREE OF THE RING, I BEGAN
TO REGAIN MY NORMAL SIZE... BUT
I WOULD HAVE PERISHED HAD NOT
YOU EXPLODED YOUR CARGO AT
THAT MOMENT.

"THE EXPLOSION PROVIDED
TWO THINGS: ENOUGH
OXYGEN TO SURVIVE IN MY
TINY STATE...

"...AND THE OPPORTUNITY
TO TAKE YOUR POWER
BATTERY!

"I USED IT TO PROPEL ME TO THIS
PLANETOID, WHERE I CREATED THE
TIME-SPEEDING MUST WITH MY MAGIC."

AND NOW I SHALL HAVE MY
REVENGE! YOU WILL DIE, KNOWING
THAT THE POWER THAT WAS
YOURS... IS NOW IN MY HANDS!

WITH THE POWER OF
YOUR BATTERY AUGMENT-
ING MY MAGIC, I SHALL
BE INVINCIBLE!

FORGET IT,
MYRWHYDDEN!

YOU'LL NEVER GET ANY POWER FROM THE BATTERY! THE MOMENT I FOUND IT MISSING, I BEAMED A MESSAGE TO THE GUARDIANS TO CUT OFF ITS POWER!

A FEEBLE BLUFF, MY OLD FOE! I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED BETTER FROM YOU!

I SHALL PROVE THE BATTERY RETAINS ITS POWER...

...BY USING IT TO END YOUR LIFE!

HE'S TAKING THE YELLOW SHIELD OFF!

WHA...!? GASP! THE BATTERY!

WHRRIPP

NO! IT CAN'T BE! YOU'RE HELPLESS--TRAPPED!

CORRECTION, MYRWHYDEN! I WAS TRAPPED! MY ENERGY DUPLICATE JUST FREED ME!

KLA KLOWN

D-DUPLICATE? I-I MUST MAKE A CHANT--

OH NO YOU DON'T! YOU'VE GIVEN ME ENOUGH GRIEF ALREADY!

WHOCK

IF I HADN'T DECIDED TO CHECK OUT YOUR LITTLE MIST BEFORE I ENTERED, YOU JUST MIGHT HAVE WON!

UGGG!

"BUT WHEN MY RING REVEALED THE MIST'S PURPOSE, I CREATED AN ENERGY-DUPLICATE OF MYSELF, WITH HALF MY POWER...

"AND LEFT IT OUTSIDE THE MIST, TO AWAIT MY MENTAL SIGNAL!"

SOON...

YOU'RE TOO DANGEROUS TO KEEP CARRYING AROUND IN MY RING... BUT THE GUARDIANS WILL SEE TO IT THAT YOUR MAGIC IS KEPT UNEMPLOYED!

AS FOR ME, I'VE GOT TO GET MY CARGO DELIVERED IN RECORD TIME, OR HAL JORDAN MAY FIND HIMSELF UNEMPLOYED!

END

FOLLOW THE EMERALD ADVENTURES OF GREEN LANTERN EVERY MONTH IN THE PAGES OF HIS OWN MAGAZINE, TEAMED WITH HIS FIGHTING COMRADE, GREEN ARROW!

GRANTED THE WISDOM OF ATHENA, THE STRENGTH OF MERCURUS, THE SPEED OF MERCURY AND THE BEAUTY OF APHRODITE BY THE GODS, PRINCESS DIANA OF PARADISE ISLAND RENOUNCED HER IMMORTALITY AND ENTERED MANS WORLD AS THE MOST LEGENDARY AMAZON OF ALL..

Wonder Woman

STEVE TREVOR HOWARD IS DEAD. THE ONLY MAN EVER TO WIN THE HEART OF THE AMAZON KNOWN AS WONDER WOMAN HAS LOST THE VITAL LIFE FORCE GIVEN TO HIM BY THE GODDESS APHRODITE ...

HE HAS DIED BEFORE -- AND THE GODDESS OF LOVE HAD RETURNED HIM TO LIFE. BUT NOW EVEN THAT SECOND CHANCE IS OVER...

WHY? WHY DID APHRODITE BRING HIM BACK -- JUST TO LET HIM DIE AGAIN? WHY?

WHY?

UNITED NATIONS PLAZA : SCENE OF THE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF THOUSANDS OF NOTABLE INDIVIDUALS -- BUT NONE SO NOTABLE AS THIS WOMAN, WHO IS ABOUT TO EMBARK ON...

The QUEST for the STOLEN SOUL!

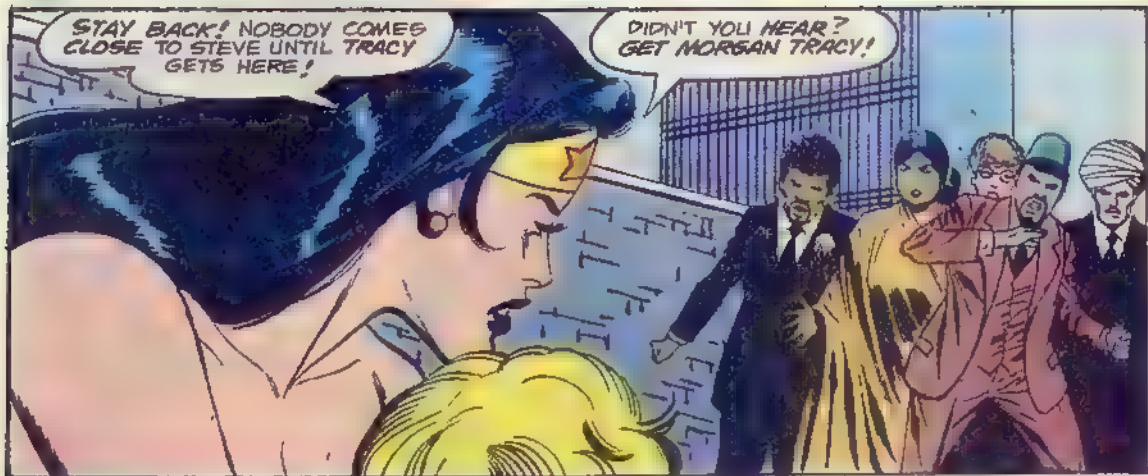
AN
ADVENTURE
INTO THE
UNKNOWN
BY:

WRITER:
JACK C.
HARRIS

ARTIST:
JACK
ABEL

LETTERER:
MILT
SNAPINN

COLORING:
GENE
D'ANGELO



STAY BACK! NOBODY COMES CLOSE TO STEVE UNTIL TRACY GETS HERE!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR? GET MORGAN TRACY!

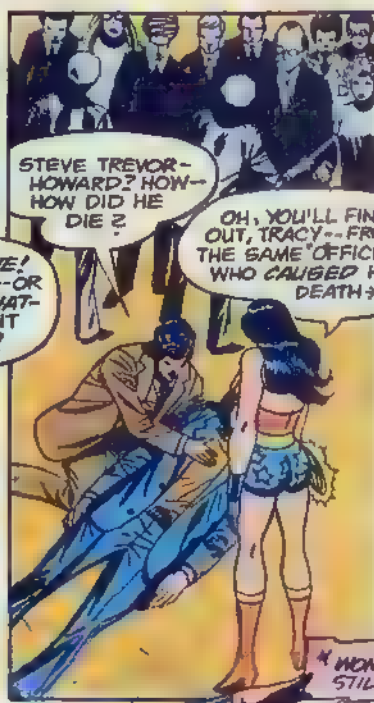


HASTILY, THE CHIEF OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY, MORGAN TRACY IS SUMMONED TO THE AWESOME SCENE...

WONDER WOMAN! WHAT'S GOING ON? I HEARD YOU--

WHO--? STEVE..?

YES! IT'S STEVE! STEVE HOWARD--OR TREVOR--OR WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL HIM!



STEVE TREVOR--HOWARD? HOW--HOW DID HE DIE?

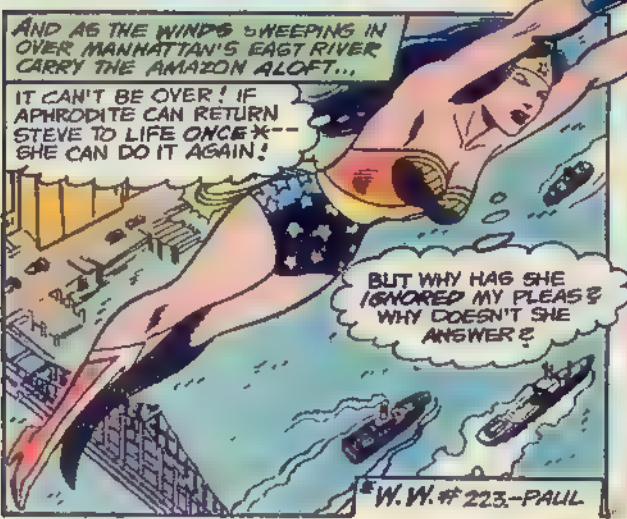
OH, YOU'LL FIND OUT, TRACY--FROM THE SAME "OFFICIALS" WHO CAUSED HIS DEATH*!



HE--HE WAS UNDER INVESTIGATION! I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT ANY MISSION!

THEN YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HIM, TRACY--AND I WISH TO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT YOU!

*WONDER WOMAN #248-- STILL ON SALE--PAUL!

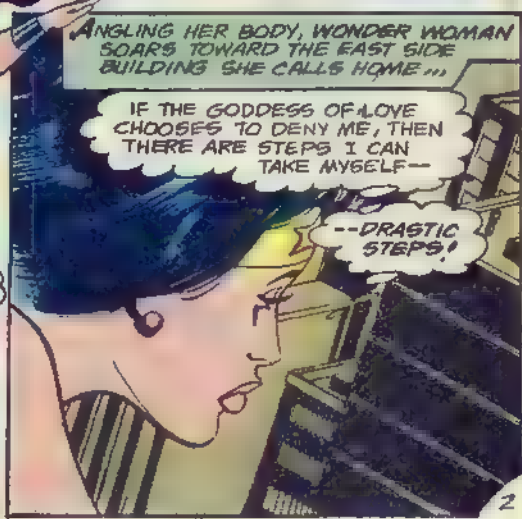


AND AS THE WINDS SWEEPING IN OVER MANHATTAN'S EAST RIVER CARRY THE AMAZON ALOFT...

IT CAN'T BE OVER! IF APHRODITE CAN RETURN STEVE TO LIFE ONCE*-- SHE CAN DO IT AGAIN!

BUT WHY HAS SHE IGNORED MY PLEAS? WHY DOESN'T SHE ANSWER?

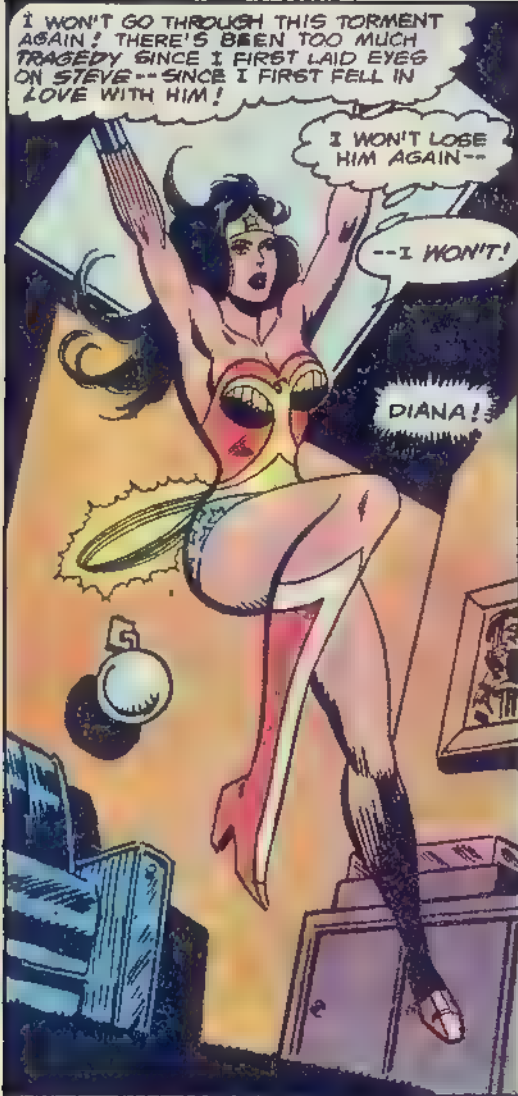
*W.W. #223--PAUL



ANGLING HER BODY, WONDER WOMAN SOARS TOWARD THE EAST SIDE BUILDING SHE CALLS HOME...

IF THE GODDESS OF LOVE CHOOSES TO DENY ME, THEN THERE ARE STEPS I CAN TAKE MYSELF--

--DRASTIC STEPS!

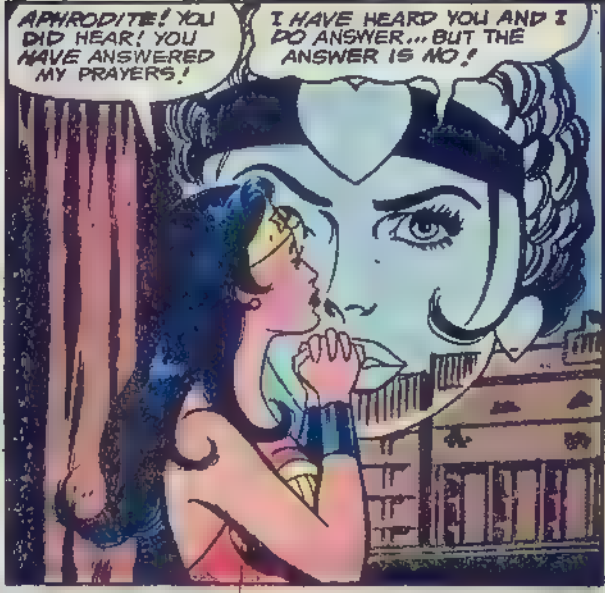


I WON'T GO THROUGH THIS TORMENT AGAIN! THERE'S BEEN TOO MUCH TRAGEDY SINCE I FIRST LAID EYES ON STEVE--SINCE I FIRST FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM!

I WON'T LOSE HIM AGAIN--

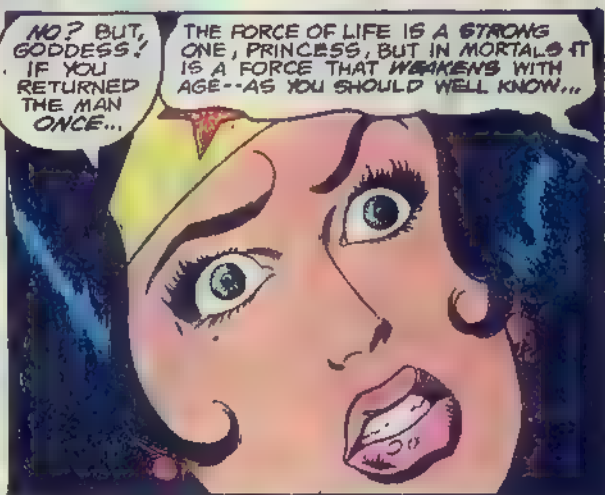
--I WON'T!

DIANA!



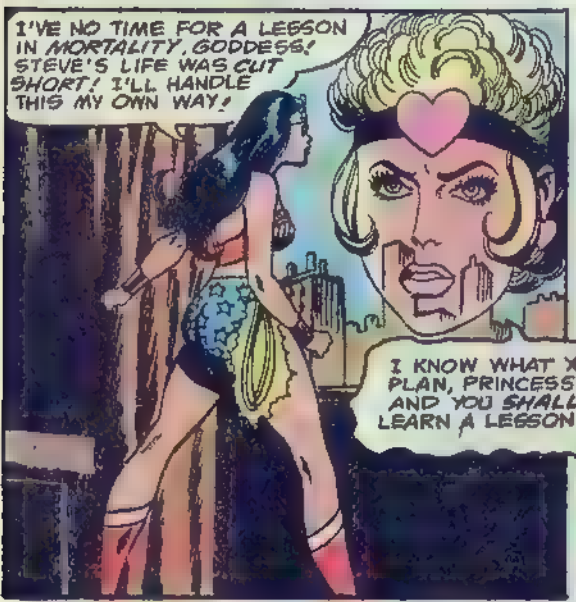
APHRODITE! YOU DID HEAR! YOU HAVE ANSWERED MY PRAYERS!

I HAVE HEARD YOU AND I DO ANSWER... BUT THE ANSWER IS NO!



NO? BUT, GODDESS! IF YOU RETURNED THE MAN ONCE...

THE FORCE OF LIFE IS A STRONG ONE, PRINCESS, BUT IN MORTALS IT IS A FORCE THAT WEAKENS WITH AGE--AS YOU SHOULD WELL KNOW...



I'VE NO TIME FOR A LESSON IN MORTALITY, GODDESS! STEVE'S LIFE WAS CUT SHORT! I'LL HANDLE THIS MY OWN WAY!

I KNOW WHAT YOU PLAN, PRINCESS-- AND YOU SHALL LEARN A LESSON...

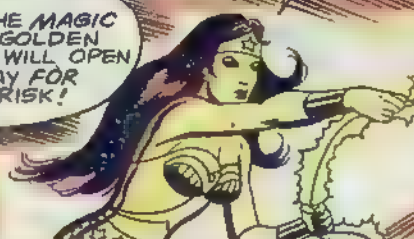


WHEN YOU LEFT YOUR HOME ON PARADISE ISLAND YOU GAVE UP YOUR IMMORTALITY, DIANA!

DO YOU DARE TEST THAT FACT --AND ASK DEATH TO CLAIM YOU AS IT HAS CLAIMED STEVE TREVOR?

BEING MORTAL MEANS HAVING SOMETHING TO DIE FOR! I'M WILLING TO TAKE THAT RISK--FOR THE MAN WHO DIED FOR ME!

AND THE MAGIC OF MY GOLDEN LASSO WILL OPEN THE WAY FOR THAT RISK!

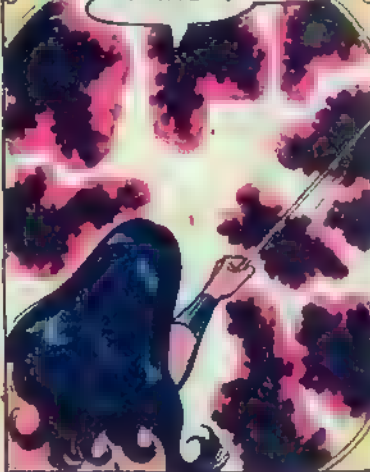


THE AIR BEGINS TO HUM AS THE GILDED LINKS OF THE MAGIC LASSO ARE SPUN AT SPEEDS ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE TO MAN...



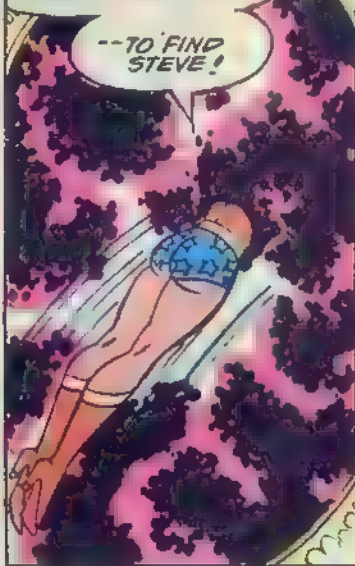
AND THE FABRIC OF TIME AND SPACE IS PARTED, AND A GATEWAY IS OPENED...

ALL DEPARTED SOULS MUST PASS ON TO THE DOMAIN OF PLUTO...



THE LAND OF THE DEAD! AND THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING--

--TO FIND STEVE!



THE FUTURE IS NOT REVEALED TO ANY SAVE THE FATES, PRINCESS--NOT EVEN TO THE GODDESS OF LOVE.

THE JOURNEY YOU EMBARK UPON MAY INDEED BE YOUR LAST--



--AND I MAY ONLY HOPE YOU WILL NOT LEARN WHAT AWAITS ALL MORTALS IN THE END!



REALMS AWAY, FALLING HELPLESSLY THROUGH THE DISTANCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH, IS THE AMAZON PRINCESS...

IS THIS POSSIBLE? EVEN IF I CAN FIND STEVE'S SOUL WITHIN PLUTO'S REALM, WILL I BE ABLE TO BRING HIM BACK?



BRING HIM BACK? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT YOU WILL BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE?

I KNOW THAT VOICE! SHOW YOURSELF, PLUTO-- OR ARE YOU AFRAID?

AND IN ANSWER...

AFRAID? IN MY OWN DOMAIN? EVEN ZEUS IS NOT MY EQUAL HERE!

UNNN...! YOU... FORGET THAT YOU RULE... THE REALM OF THE DEAD--

--AND I AM STILL ALIVE!

THAT IS A SITUATION THAT SHALL SOON BE RECTIFIED, WOMAN--

--SO DECLARES PLUTO!

YOUR DECLARATIONS ARE MEANINGLESS, PLUTO--YOU HOLD NO POWER OVER THOSE OF US WHO LIVE!

CONSIDER ME AN INVADING ARMY--TO WHICH YOU MUST SURRENDER--!

NOW WHERE IS THE SOUL OF STEVE TREVOR? SHOW ME--!

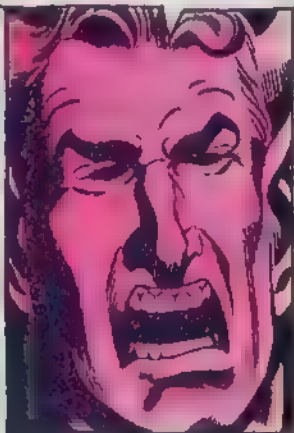
NEVER!

FOR A MILLENNIUM, THE SOULS
OF THE AMAZONS HAVE BEEN
DENIED ME-- TAKEN AWAY BY
THEIR GIFT OF IMMORTALITY!

NOW, YOU DARE TO ENTER THIS
PLACE-- YOU, THE ONLY MORTAL
AMAZON!

DO YOU THINK I SHALL
EVER ALLOW YOU TO
LEAVE?

TAKE HER, MY MINIONS!
AND THIS TIME HOLD HER!



HOW CAN I KEEP...
FIGHTING THEM? THEIR
NUMBERS ARE ENDLESS...

MAYBE
I CAN...
BARGAIN!

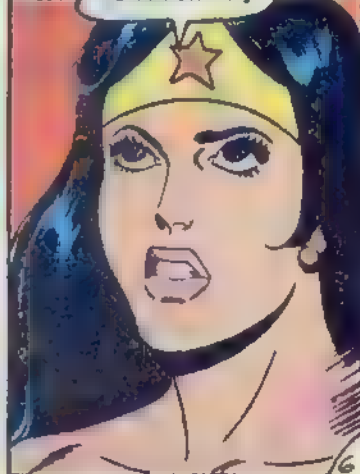
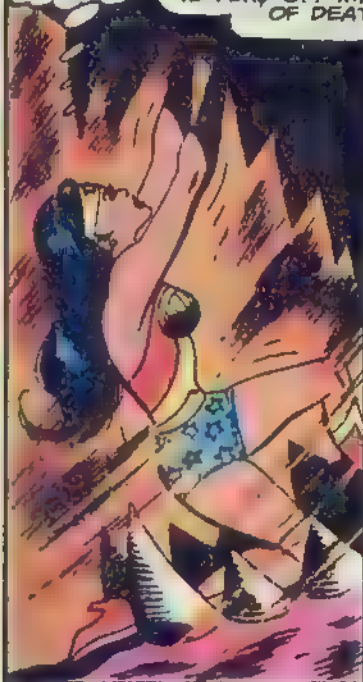
THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING,
AMAZON! THOUGH YOUR
STRENGTH OF LIFE IS ABLE
TO FEND OFF MY BEASTS
OF DEATH...

... SOONER OR LATER,
YOUR STRENGTH WILL
WANE--AND YOUR
SPIRIT--AS WELL AS
YOUR EARTHLY BODY
WILL SUCCUMB TO
ME--TO DEATH!

WAIT, PLUTO! YOU HAVE
NEVER BEEN A WARRIOR--
A SEEKER OF BATTLE'S
VAIN GLORIES!

LET US TRADE WORDS
INSTEAD OF BLOWS--I
HAVE A BARGAIN!

SHOW ME THE SOUL OF
STEVE TREVOR-- RETURN IT
TO HIS EARTHLY BODY--AND
I SHALL BE YOURS--FOR
ETERNITY!



THE HUMAN'S SOUL FOR YOURS?
NO... NO! YOU MUST SUCCUMB!



YOUR SPIRIT--YOUR BODY MUST DIE
FOR YOU TO BE MINE ETERNALLY!
I SHALL HAVE YOU BOTH!



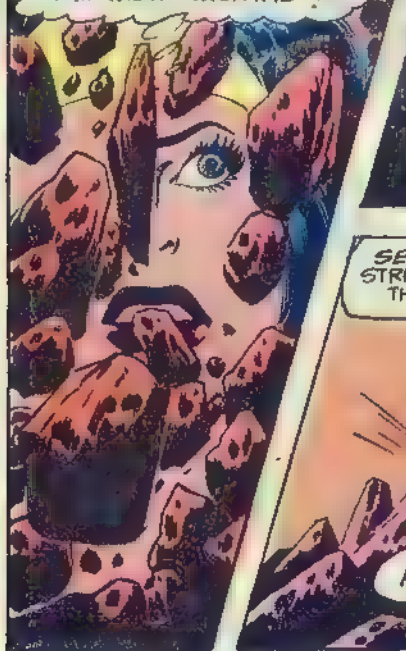
NO--!
UNNNN--!

GREAT HERA! THE ROCKS
HAVE NEVER "LIVED"--THEY'RE
"DEAD" THINGS--AND THEY'RE
UNDER PLUTO'S CONTROL!



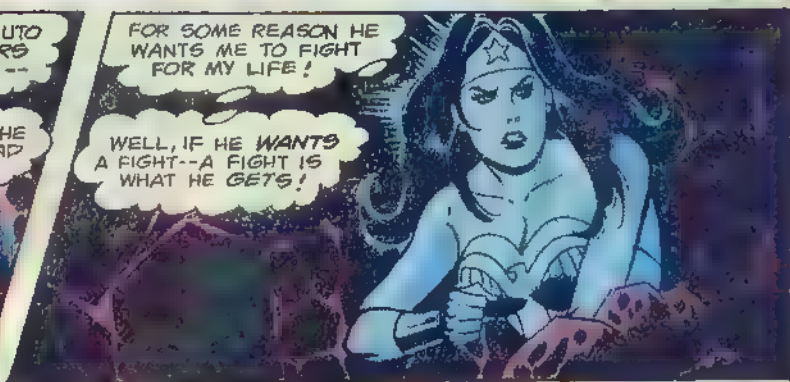
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. PLUTO
HAS WAITED A THOUSAND YEARS
FOR THE SOUL OF AN AMAZON--

--WHY WOULDN'T HE TRADE THE
CHANCE TO OBTAIN ONE INSTEAD
OF A "MERE MORTAL"?



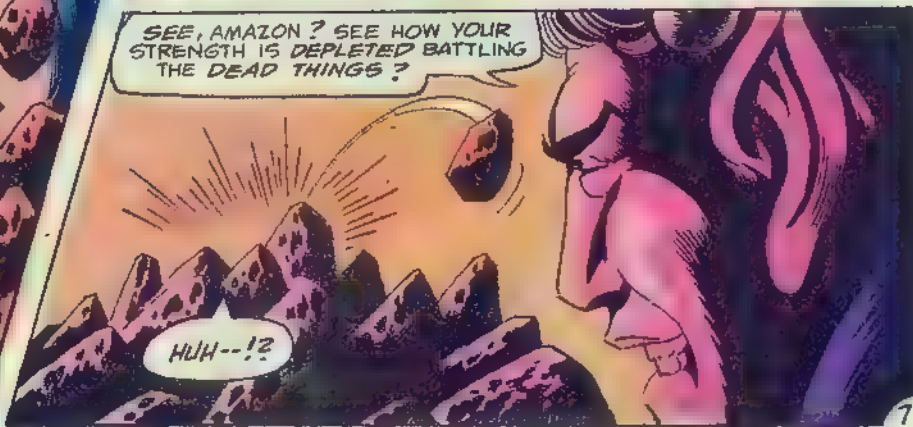
FOR SOME REASON HE
WANTS ME TO FIGHT
FOR MY LIFE!

WELL, IF HE WANTS
A FIGHT--A FIGHT IS
WHAT HE GETS!



SEE, AMAZON? SEE HOW YOUR
STRENGTH IS DEPLETED BATTLING
THE DEAD THINGS?

HUH--!?



HE--HE'S RIGHT! EVERY TIME I EXPEND ENERGY IT SEEMS AS IF THERE'S NOTHING TO REPLENISH IT!



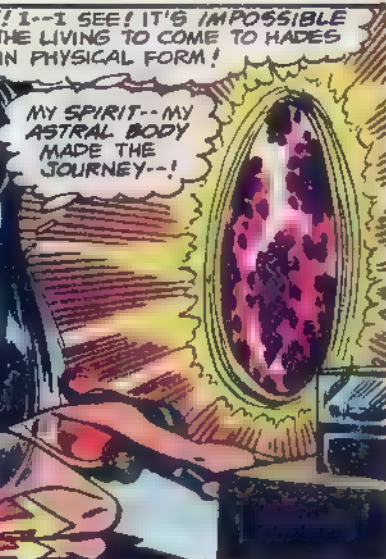
HERA HELP ME--!

AS IF IN ANSWER...

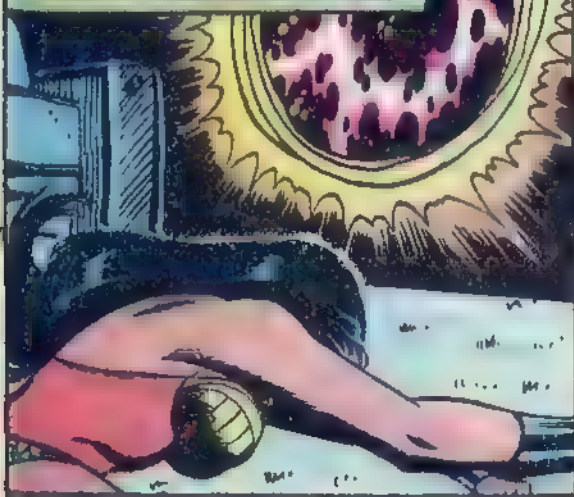


WAIT! I--I SEE! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE LIVING TO COME TO HADES IN PHYSICAL FORM!

MY SPIRIT--MY ASTRAL BODY MADE THE JOURNEY--!



"--LEAVING MY EARTHLY BODY AN EMPTY, UNPROTECTED SHELL!"



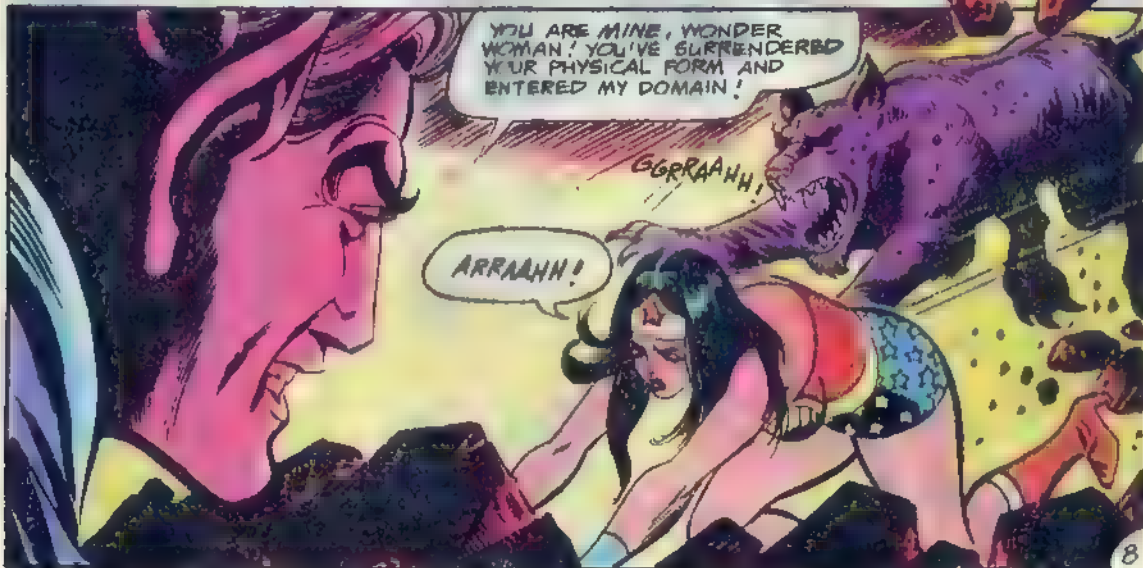
SO! YOU STILL FIGHT ON--DENYING THE INEVITABLE?

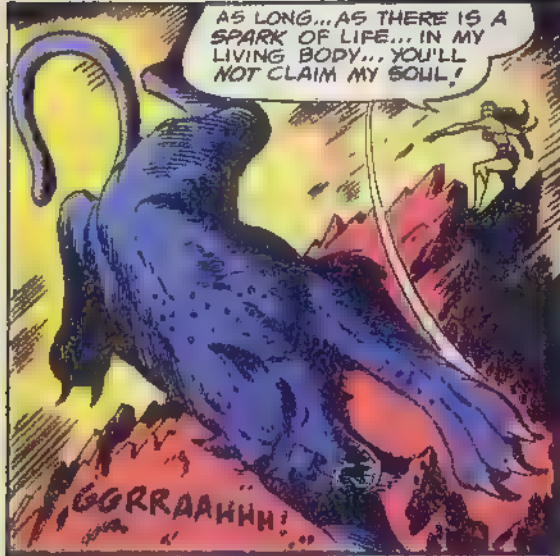


YOU ARE MINE, WONDER WOMAN! YOU'VE SURRENDERED YOUR PHYSICAL FORM AND ENTERED MY DOMAIN!

ARRAAHH!

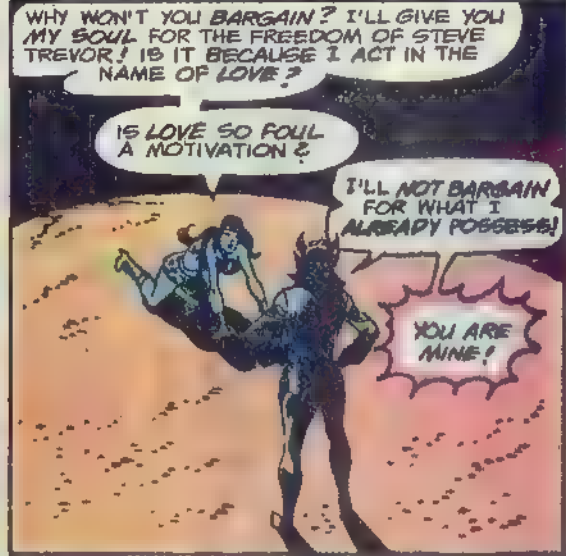
GORRAHH!





AS LONG... AS THERE IS A SPARK OF LIFE... IN MY LIVING BODY... YOU'LL NOT CLAIM MY SOUL!

GGRRRAHHH!

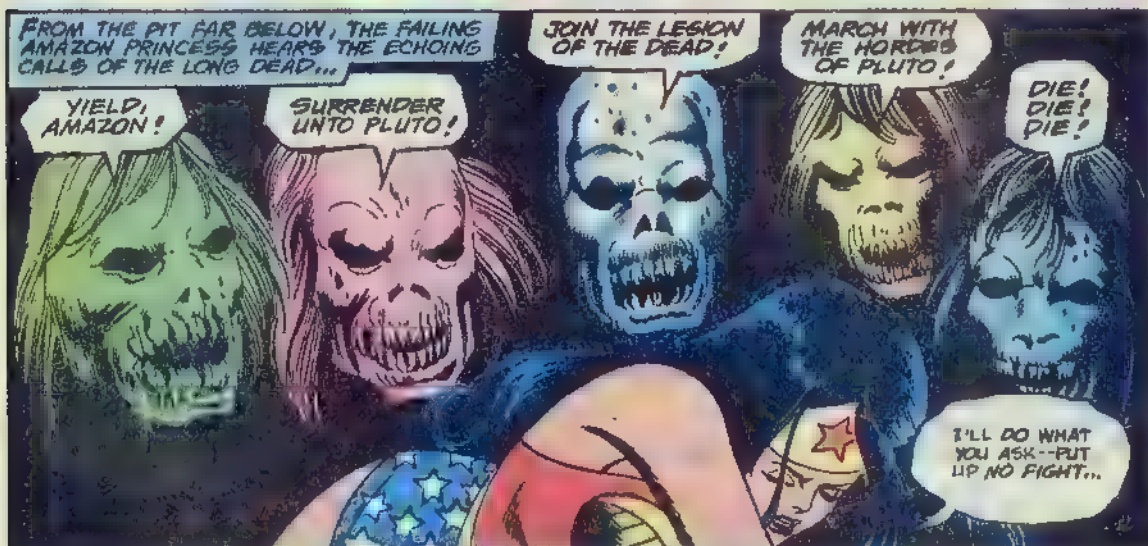


WHY WON'T YOU BARGAIN? I'LL GIVE YOU MY SOUL FOR THE FREEDOM OF STEVE TREVOR! IS IT BECAUSE I ACT IN THE NAME OF LOVE?

IS LOVE SO FOUL A MOTIVATION?

I'LL NOT BARGAIN FOR WHAT I ALREADY POSSESS!

YOU ARE MINE!



FROM THE PIT FAR BELOW, THE FAILING AMAZON PRINCESS HEARS THE ECHOING CALLS OF THE LONG DEAD...

JOIN THE LEGION OF THE DEAD!

MARCH WITH THE HORDES OF PLUTO!

DIE! DIE! DIE!

YIELD, AMAZON!

SURRENDER UNTO PLUTO!

I'LL DO WHAT YOU ASK--PUT UP NO FIGHT...

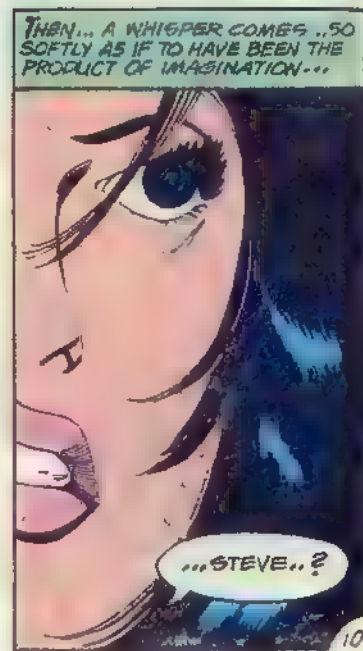
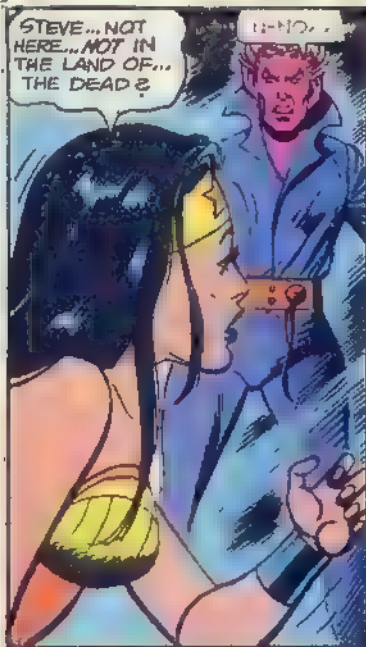


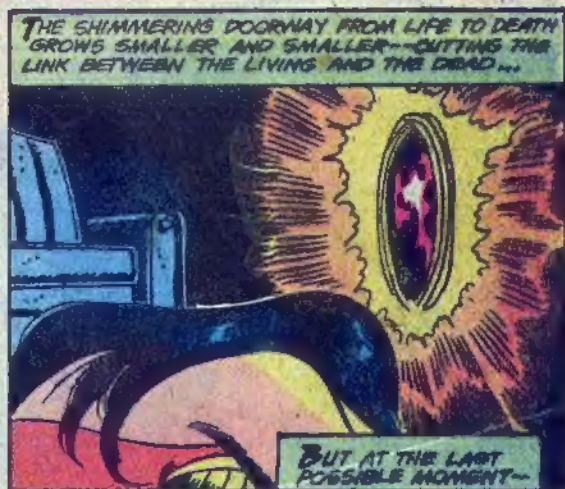
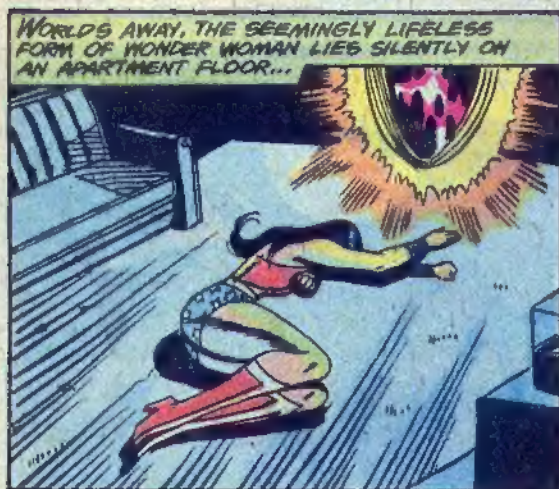
...JUST GIVE ME STEVE BACK!



NO! NO! I MUST HAVE YOU! I CANNOT BARGAIN!

STEVE TREVOR IS NOT IN MY DOMAIN! I DO NOT HAVE HIS SOUL!





HOURS PASS IN DARKNESS AND THEN CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS...

I KNOW YOU HEAR ME,
GODDESS OF LOVE, AND
I UNDERSTAND!

THE MAN KNOWN AS STEVE
TREVOR AND STEVE HOWARD
IS DEAD, IS HE NOT?

YES, HIS TIME
ON EARTH IS
DONE...

HERA HAD PREVAILED UPON
ZEUS TO TAKE HIS SOUL, AND
PUT IT AMONG THE STARS,
AS HE ONCE DID FOR ORION!

AND THOUGH HE IS
DEAD, HIS LOVE
LIVES ON --

--LIVES ON AND
IS WITH ME...
ALWAYS!

FOLLOW THE ADVENTURES OF
Wonder Woman
EVERY MONTH IN HER OWN
MAGAZINE!

DATELINE: ADVENTURE

L-131

c/o DC COMICS, INC.,

75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Since the mail response isn't in on our first Dollar Comics issue, we'll devote this column to the results of the Adventurous Escapes contest that ran in #457.

First of all, we must make mention of the fact that over 100 entries crossed our desk, and each and every one was read and weighed for the ingenuity of its proposed solution. Quite a few were eliminated for going over the 100 word limit, and many of the others fell into a couple of categories:

Bill Sherman of Chesterfield, Mo., gets honorable mention in the first category—the limbo dimension theory. The common point of the handful of entries that fit within this category is that *Superboy* and *Eclipso* each vanished, reappearing in a limbo-dimension where they solved their mutual problem. Bill gets honorable mention because he didn't clutter up his limbo-land with additional characters or problems.

Steven Hersh of South Euclid, Ohio, gets honorable mention in the common cause category, for suggesting that aliens have been taking captives from Earth every twenty-five years, and that this was the root cause of both disappearances. He also made use of the ruby from *Eclipso's* story and tied it into the *Superboy* story. Most of the entrants who dreamed up a common cause used one of our established villains however.

Which leads us to the established villains category, naturally enough, with an honorable mention for Gary Greenblatt, address unknown. While many of our readers attributed the scheme to Luthor, and quite a few to *Eclipso*, Gary dug up a character whose powers would make the disappearances natural—*The Parasite*. However, Gary's just getting an honorable mention because he also brought *Brainiac* into the scheme.

One of the most frequent eliminating factors was complexity. Some readers brought the *Justice League* or the *Legion of Super-Heroes* into the story, which is a lovely idea if you have an unlimited amount of space to deal with it—but is almost impossible if you work under the given condition that the story had to be wrapped up in the next issue.

Honorable mention in the honesty category goes to Nick Jenny of Rochester, NY, who wrote that he "can't think of any ideas that aren't either silly or impossible . . . maybe this funny book stuff is harder than it looks." A special vote of thanks from the staff, Nick. It's not often that anyone gives us credit for the tremendous effort that goes into plotting each and every story.

Jack Drescher of Padova, Italy, wondered if we really do plot outlines in a hundred words or less, and to earn our honorable mention in honesty, we'll reply no. A typical comic book plot runs about 250 to 500 words for each 8 pages of comics. However, the plots are far more detailed than anything we were asking for from you.

The siphon theory was proposed by a number of readers, each with their own variant of the theory that *Eclipso* was stealing *Superboy's* energy for his own

nefarious purposes. Curt Columbus of New Castle, PA, gets the honorable mention in this category, for simplicity and clarity.

One unsigned scribe sent in the strangest solution proposing that ye editor "is a spy for Marvel Comics, sent over by the enemy to get rid of competition. He has developed a special ink . . . Marvel is using it to print voodoo comics of the DC heroes . . ." and they fade away.

The tie-in award goes to Kent A. Phenix of Liberty, AL, for being the most interesting of readers tying our tale in with another comic magazine. In his case, *SHOWCASE* #100.

Finally, the grand prize (a year's subscription to *ADVENTURE*), goes to Kevin Peters, 2019 Hanover Avenue, Saskatoon, Sask. S7J 1E3, Canada, for the following solution:

Professor Bennett remembers that an old colleague of his, Dr. Franz Roschmann (or whatever) experimented with the idea of transforming energy from one object to another in the hope that someday it might save lives. The catch is, Roschmann died in 1960 and his notes were never found.

Gordon, using *Rip Hunter's* Time Sphere, goes back to 1958 to find Roschmann and *Eclipso* follows.

Superboy goes to Roschmann looking for a cure too. They all meet and fight. Good wins (of course).

Roschmann, using *Eclipso* as an energy source, replenishes both Gordon's and *Superboy's* energy. The powerless *Eclipso* then merges with Gordon.

Kevin wins for a couple of reasons. First of all, his "McGuffin" is very clear and simple. (As any Hitchcock fan knows, the McGuffin is the basically irrelevant object of a search that serves to bring the principals of a story together and focus their action.) Second, he used time travel in a more interesting manner than most of the respondents—who had *Superboy* do the time travelling, which is easier and more commonplace. Finally, in 100 words or less, he has plotted out the story thoroughly, and explained why the various characters are doing what they're doing—without revising or reinterpreting a single word of the existing stories. He leaves *Superboy's* dilemma and the essential Gordon-*Eclipso* conflict to be resolved as the peripheral matters that they are. Congratulations, Kevin, on a tough job well done.

In closing, we'd like to quote one more entrant, who summed up the reasoning behind the contest in answer to his own question:

"Why? . . . The reason was all too obvious: you felt like having some fun. I decided to do the same, and actually came up with not one, not two, but three different plots."—Dave Blanchard, Rockford, IL.

And that's exactly what this magazine is all about. See you in sixty days, friends, with the third edition of the all-new *ADVENTURE COMICS* and, the Post Office willing, your comments on our first issue.—Paul Levitz.



6 NEW SUPER-STAR FEATURES!

